

# THE LIBRARY JOURNAL

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JULY, 1928

NO. 13

NEW BOOKS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

*Jean C. Roos*

LEATHER PRESERVATION

*G. E. Wire*

HOW PERIODICALS AID RESEARCH

*Henry O. Severance*

COMPLETION OF THE BIBLIOTHEQUE  
NATIONALE CATALOG

*C. C. Williamson*

RECLASSIFICATION: ITS PROBLEMS  
AND TECHNIQUE

*Rudolph Gjelsness*

RESEARCH IN THE LAND GRANT  
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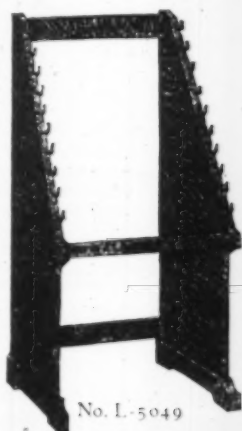
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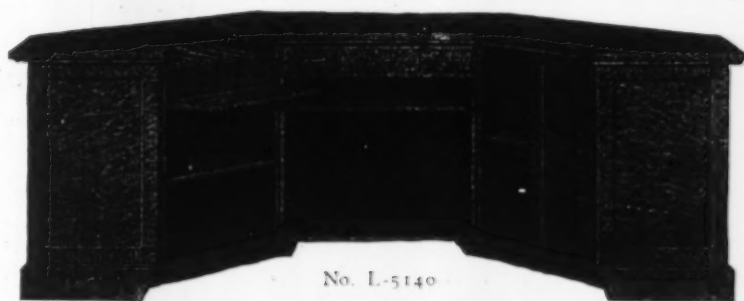
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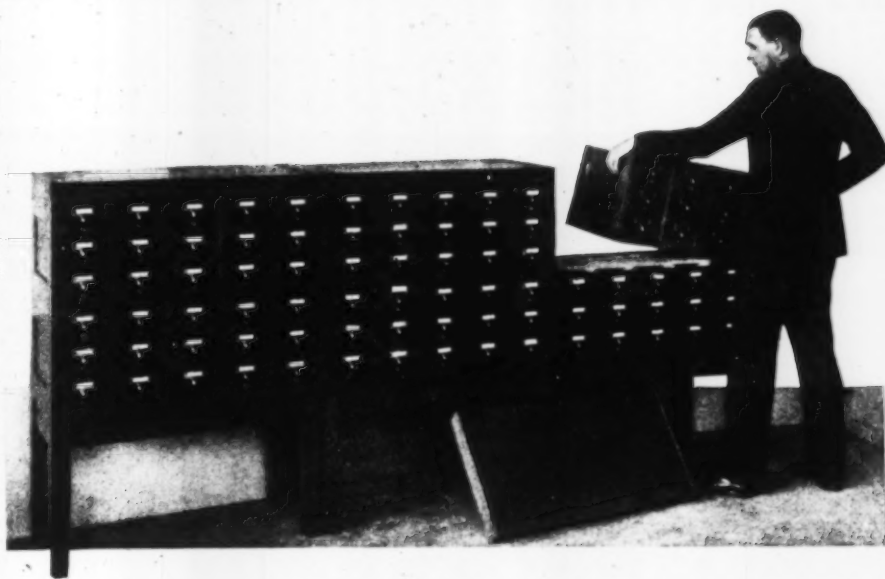
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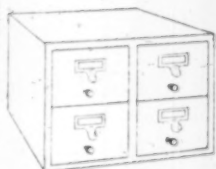


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## THE LIBRARY JOURNAL

VOLUME 53, No. 13

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# THE LIBRARY JOURNAL

• JULY, 1928 •

## NEW BOOKS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN THEIR TEENS

BY JEAN C. ROOS

*Head of the Stevenson Room for Young People, Cleveland Public Library*

IN her study of *The Adolescent Girl*, Winifred Richmond states, "The world of adolescence is a very different world from that of childhood. The latter, in spite of its perplexities and problems, of vast importance to the child, is still a sheltered and protected world, with well defined boundaries and limited responsibilities. Adolescence, surmounting the hills of childhood, looks out upon a new, vast, bewildering world, where old landmarks no longer serve and old objectives are left behind."

"Of the seven ages of man, youth is without doubt the most important, the most significant, the most difficult to comprehend and to handle," says O'Shea. "So men must have always felt, for the literature of the world is burdened with the story of this epoch, reciting its excesses, its passions, its madness, as well as its glories and its possibilities." Are not Maggie Tulliver, Oliver Twist, Tess of the D'Urbervilles, Adam Bede etched in our memories?

One mother's comment by way of explanation was, "He is in his teens; I don't know what to do with him!" This teen age—the transition period of adolescence, with its gradual changing attitude toward life, involving a new adjustment to a new world, what do we do with it?

First of all, we try to understand it. Adolescence is the blossoming of childhood. Youth longs for new things, old things are too commonplace; it is startled by new emotions and new ideals, and so experiments for itself. It will not accept, now, the law of its childhood but continually demands the why of things, taking nothing for granted. Self assertion often hides sensitiveness and self-consciousness. It craves companionship, sympathy, praise and approbation, and in all ways it is essentially honest. It needs a disciplinarian last, a comrade first. As one boy said, "I need an 'under-

stander.' " Personal contacts mean a great deal now, but there must be no superimposing of ideas, and guidance should be given indirectly. By continual stressing of the best, one can make possible a vigorous growth of the desirable, so that there will be little chance for the weeds to develop.

The librarian then, in the role of an understanding comrade first, and a disciplinarian last, and as a custodian of a vast storehouse of books, can develop immeasurably the reading interests of this teen-age group whose reading should be as broad as the sea and as high as the heavens.

At the Cleveland Museum of Art, some time ago, there was an exhibit of work done by the students of Prof. Cizek of the Vienna School of Arts and Crafts. There were many unusual original paintings, drawings and woodcuts. In a descriptive pamphlet, *The Child as Artist*, there is this reference to Prof. Cizek: "How do you do it?" he was asked. "But I don't do it," he protested with a kind of weary pity for our lack of understanding. "I take off the lid and other masters clap the lid on—that is the only difference."

In our work with young people in the Stevenson Room, we are trying to take off the lid and expose this teen-aged group to books of a consistently high standard and to have the librarian ready when an opportunity comes to suggest, or awaken their interests.

These are the days of tests and measurements, when the I. Q. and the P. L. R. may be scientifically discovered, and when it is possible to class people according to their mental ability. There are the Binet-Simon, the Thorndike and the Kulman tests, besides many others, and the methods of testing are legion. The person tested may be asked to describe pictures, count backwards, arrange weights, find rhymes, detect

absurdities in statements, or he may be given a vocabulary test, an induction test or a true and false test.

There is one, which may be closely applied to librarianship, that is the association test. The tester gives a word after which, within a given time, the "testee" must write down his first reaction or association with that word. For example, word *blue* being given, the first reaction may be the sky, or blue water, or blue eyes, or a blue Monday morning. The next word may be *walk*, suggesting a country road, a beautiful wooded spot or it may suggest a child learning to walk, etc., so that this test when completed presents to the tester a background of reactions, associations and emotional controls of the person tested. In other words every reaction or association comes from within and is founded upon some experience.

We librarians, in our daily contacts, are continually undergoing such association tests. For after all, to a great extent, it is our own vital reading experiences and associations which are reflected in our use of books. When a young borrower comes with a request, let us say, for a western story, what are the immediate associations which come to mind? In response to this request for a western story, does the librarian immediately think of Grey or Curwood or any of the endless mediocre western stories, or does he remember that marvelous picture of the pioneer west given in Bojer's *Emigrants* where Bojer tells the story of the Norwegian pioneer settlers in America? The story opens in Norway with Erick Foss gathering together a group of his people who are coming to this land as the land of promise. There is the well-to-do farm of the Colonel and the tumble-down farm of Kivdal, there are the vivid characters of Kal and Karen who labor on their barren ground twenty-four hours out of the day but who could not get food enough for their children; there is Per Foll, strong in body but with great spiritual unrest, Anton Noreng, a mother's darling and Jo Berg, the schoolmaster who talked but never did things. The bond comes almost to have the strength of family ties as the misfortunes of the pioneer overtake them. The trip across the prairie, the staking of their homesteads, the building of sod huts, the tilling of the soil, the first prairie fire, and gradually the conquering of the land and the growth of the community into a village are vividly told, and withal there is a tremendous human interest in the characters. This is a true pioneering tale, a true epic of the soil, not the fighting, drinking and shooting type with its stock characters, the dangerous woman at the bar and the villainous ranchman with finger always on the trigger.

Rolvaag's *Giants in the Earth*, with a similar appeal can be suggested; Garland's trilogy of the Middle Border and Willa Cather's pioneer novels will also be read.

Several new "stepping stone" books may be used to create an interest in this covered-wagon type of western story. Cooper's *Golden Bubble* is the story of the settling of Pike's Peak. Morrow's *We Must March* and Hargreave's *Cabin at the Trail's End*, are both pictures of pioneering in Oregon in 1843. Parkman's *Oregon Trail*, Skinner's *Adventures of Oregon*, follow the interest very closely here. Some boys revel in the adventures of Marcus Whitman. A new life of Kit Carson by Vestal gives a vivid picture of the west and a new interpretation of this bandy-legged, sandy-haired little frontiersman. For the cowboy enthusiast, there are Rollins' *Single-bob* and Siringo's *Riata and Spurs*, both with all the thrills of the west.

To go back to Bojer's *Emigrants*, there is another value in that remarkable book. In its picture of Norway it furnishes an entirely new outlet and one leading far away from the western story to books based on life in another hemisphere.

These are a few of the reactions and associations librarians, in their special work with young people, might have with some of the newer adult books.

When reading for our own pleasure or when reviewing books for the library, it helps to stop long enough to analyze the appeal of the book and to consider it with the point of view of use with young people, to think over the tie-up with other books in the collection, with other books of fiction, with travel and biography. If it is a mediocre book, has it any outlet into another type of story or is it a blind alley book? It is so very easy for young people to read in a circle. In riding their wooden hobby horses of school and western story, they go round and round and become merry-go-round readers never getting a glimpse of the world beyond. It behooves us to break that vicious circle.

Perhaps, the next request will be for the proverbial adventure story, or adventure "tinged" with mystery. Let us build up a few associations: Markham's *The Scamp* is a rollicking tale of a gallant highwayman of the reign of George I, known as Duval's Double. He becomes an outlaw and encounters many adventures before his true character becomes known. Here is the same appeal as in Dumas' *Three Musketeers* and Scott's *Rob Roy* and boys will eagerly follow these adventures when introduced to them.

In Lester's *Adventures of a Trantalzar Lad*, Purdy, a boy of fifteen served under Nelson, was captured by a famous pirate and ex-

iled. This will interest the boys who enjoyed Bill's *Clutch of the Corsican* and it can be followed by Broster's *Mr. Row* for more about Napoleon and Nelson. Connor's *The Quest of the Sea Otter* is the cruise of the American brig, *Sea Otter*, full of thrilling sea adventures and with a mysterious stowaway; of interest because it is a link connecting the girl's story with the adventurous tale. Those who enjoy adventure and mystery will revel in *Siberian Gold*, by Harper. In Eastern Siberia a young American engineer struggles with a concession in the Siberian gold fields, overcoming obstacles such as the superstition of the mujiks, plots of corrupt officials and a convict uprising led by enemies.

Selma Lagerlöf has given us two mystery stories: *The Treasure* is a legend of medieval Norway, telling how Elsalill sends the Scottish Knight she loves to the gallows, when she learns that the vengeance she has sworn for the murder of her foster sister must fall on him. In *The General's Ring*, we have the mystery of the ring which was stolen from the vault of the Lowenskolds and the ghost of the old general walks until it is restored.

Bedford-Jones' *St. Michael's Gold* tells of the hidden treasures at St. Michael and of the escapades of an American in France at the beginning of the French Revolution and of a young woman disguised as a Norman peasant lad. *The King's Passport* by the same author, introduces Cyrano de Bergerac.

The period of the Saxon Kingdom in Britany is recreated by Bishop and Brodeur in *The Altar of the Legion*. The stemming of the tide of Saxon hordes in Britain is the theme, and love, intrigue and dual roles make up the plot. This romance of early Saxon England will lead to Kingsley's classic *Hereward the Wake*, and to Lilijcrantz' *Ward of King Canute*.

Douglas' *The Black Douglas*, an historical romance of the time of Robert the Bruce, is a stirring well written story connecting again with Doyle's *White Company* and Scott's *Quentin Durward*.

These titles serve to illustrate the type of adventure story which lead to the reading of better historical stories, the classics, or other types of literature.

Shifting now to stories of the American scene with historical setting, we have first Davis' *Gilman of Redford* giving a vivid picture of the turmoil of the years preceding the Revolution. Gilman was a student at Harvard and a friend of Paul Revere and Samuel Adams. James Boyd's *Drums*, a book of distinction, and Sabatini's *Carolinian*, rather easier to read, picture the south of the revolutionary period; in Boyd's *Marching On*, we have a civil war story told with the point of view of a poor North Caro-

lina farmer. Sandburg's *Lincoln* might be introduced here. Moore's *Hearts of Hickory* is built around the career of Andrew Jackson and the events of the War of 1812. A recent book by Gerald Johnson is a most readable and entertaining biography of the dramatic career of Andrew Jackson.

Ferenc Molnar has caught the spirit of seventeen in *The Paul Street Boys*. He tells with remarkable veracity the story of a gang of grammar-school boys, their battles with a rival gang and the death of the smallest and pluckiest boy. Loyalty and honor have the highest place in their code. More escapades of *Jeremy* come from the pen of Hugh Walpole when Jeremy attends Crale. We have the usual bully of the school story, the persecuted younger lad but we also discover the sterling qualities of Jeremy who does not always have an enviable position in the school.

What about the girls, you say, are there no books of home life and books of romance for them? Of course, many girls do read and enjoy the good adventure tales, historical stories, books of pioneer life, but they also want stories of home life and romance as well.

Probably the most outstanding book of recent American home life is Suckow's *The Bonney Family*. From the everyday trivialities, the yearnings, the heartaches and the affections of family life, are built up the characters of the self-sacrificing mother, the awkward seventeen year old brother, the fine, sturdy, eldest sister and the lovable, helpless, ministerial father. Girls who enjoy Canfield, and Cather's *Song of the Lark*, will welcome this.

Mary Chase's *Uplands* is a prose idyll, exquisitely told, of two young people, who thru the miracle of love find the abundant life in the midst of the narrow and depressing atmosphere of a bleak Maine farm. *Mary Christmas*, by the same author, is equally lovely. *The Glass Window*, by Lucy Furman, is a story of a Kentucky mountaineer school, giving, sometimes humorous, sometimes pathetic pictures of the work and the mountain folk. A book of similar interest is Stones' *The Laughingest Lady*, which tells of the experiences of a teacher with little children in a mining town in New Mexico.

The Mississippi has come to us with the sheen of romance. *Black Angels*, by Lovelace, is the story of the Angel Family Concert Troupe, composed of five brothers and sisters who travel thru the Mississippi Valley in a covered wagon. It is a vivacious tale of youth and music, Gilbert and Sullivan's *Pinafore* finally bringing the troupe prosperity. Le May's *Old Father of Waters* tells of Mississippi steamboats and of a young captain who "seeks turmoil" and who succeeds in finding it. Herbert

Quick's *Mississippi Steamboat* is a picturesque account of the early river traffic, interspersed with lively tales and anecdotes.

Minnigerode has supplied romance a-plenty in a vivid novel, *Cordelia Chantrell*, and girls interested in southern life will read Young's *Heaven Trees*, and Hergesheimer's *Balisand*.

For those who enjoy romance and life in other countries, Silvestre's *Aimée Villard* is foremost. Here is the delicate idyl of Aimée, a daughter of France, who gave up her lover when he refused to stay on the farm but who won contentment in taking the responsibility of her home and in giving happiness to her family and later found true love with Martial, a returned soldier. It is as beautifully done as *Maria Chapdelaine* and will be enjoyed even more, because of its happy ending. Lagerlöf, in her *Charlotte Lowenskold*, gives us a romantic story with enough of the modern element to start girls to reading her older and better books.

Kelly's *Basquerie* is a romance of the Basque country. It tells of the marriage of a sophisticated American to a young Basque peasant, the head of a proud family in the Pyrenees. The author's appreciation of the country and of peasant character save the story from mediocrity. It serves as an introduction to *The Pyrenees* by Loti. Sawtell's *Primitive Hearts in the Pyrenees* will interest a few girls with its dramatic picture of explorations and prehistoric findings in the caves of the French Pyrenean country.

For girls who yearn for Graustarkian romance, *Ernestine Sophia* by Cleugh, supplies all the elements. *Perella* by Locke and Byrne's *Hangman's House* are liked by the girls who demand love stories. Dunsany's *Don Rodriguez*, concerns itself with the romantic adventures of Don Rodriguez and his merry servant, and abounds in humor and imagination. It will appeal to the better reader and suggests the spirit of *Don Quixote*.

Cather's *Death Comes for the Archbishop* must not be omitted altho its appeal is more limited. The story of Father Latour and his intrepid vicar in the early days of the missions of New Mexico is beautifully and vividly told. Even without romance, it suggests *Ramona*.

Perhaps this is not a balanced ration. Where is science, travel and biography? It is quite possible to associate with stories of high adventure, such as Byrd's *Skyward* and so help to balance the reading of young people. Byrd is known as the scientist in aviation and like Beebe, in his *Arcturus Adventure* and Andrews, in his *On the Trail of Ancient Man*, he couples the joy of the true wanderer in the wilderness with a keen and trained observation. Lindbergh's *We*, a most popular biography of the most

popular hero, telling of his early training and adventures in aviation and of his famous trans-Atlantic flight, is a splendid starter along this line of development.

There is a fascinating group of books on Africa where adventure is set in the jungle of the dark continent. Johnson's *Safari*, a saga of the African blue, narrates the five hundred mile journey made into the wilds by Mr. and Mrs. Johnson, with their moving picture equipment. There are lions waiting for defenseless giraffes at waterholes, experiences with rhinoceros, elephants and tigers; observations of the peculiarities and the habitat of birds. Again in Akeley's *In Brightest Africa*, and in Stewart Edward White's *Lions in the Path*, we have the spirit and life of the jungle. Older boys are reveling in *Trader Horn* and younger boys in Finger's new biography of *David Livingstone*. The earlier books of Livingstone and Stanley are being consulted because Finger refers to them in his book.

That most mysterious country, Arabia, the forbidden land, is a fascinating place for boys to explore. Lowell Thomas' *Boys' Life of Lawrence* and his *With Lawrence in Arabia*, are excellent introductions to the *Bible of Arabia*. Lawrence's own account, in his *Revolt in the Desert*. Fulanain's *The Marsh Arab* is a welcome new addition to the literature of Arabia. Here are the adventures of Hadji Rikkan, an old Arab peddler, who is poled about the marshes by his twin nephews. Old stories of love and feuds between tribes, songs, and strange customs are dramatically told.

Noel's *Story of Everest* gives a glimpse into another forbidden land—the sacred land of Tibet, opening up the field of travel described by Younghusband and Hedin.

A few other biographies can only be mentioned in passing. That delightful picture of Sir Francis Drake by Benson for those who remember the romance of *Westward Ho* and *Kenilworth*; the inimitable *Up the Years from Bloomsbury* by Arliss; the colorful period reproduced in Lamb's *Genghis Khan*, and the most readable biography of *Disraeli* by Maurois.

Mr. Auslander, in his *Winged Horse*, has brought refreshing breezes from the Elysian fields. It has already opened up a new world in the realm of poetry. Not very many of us while reading it have resisted going back to our Homer, our Shakespeare, to our Keats and Shelley, and young people will be led to explore these poets. The *Oxford Book of English Verse*, Untermyer's *Yesterday and Today*, *The Third Book of Verse*, by Rittenhouse, are fine companion volumes.



Two noteworthy contributions to the literature of adolescents are Miss Anne Carroll Moore's chapters on "Entering the Teens" and "In the Teens," in her *Crossroads to Childhood*, and May Lamberton Becker's book, *Adventures in Reading*. Both authors understand the psychology of youth and both books include good bibliographies.

New books, carefully read and carefully chosen will build up manifold reactions and associations. Youth is new—always. The opportunity that it offers to those who work with books, old and new, is always fresh and changing, and it presents a most challenging field in the library world.

- Akeley, Carl. *In Brightest Africa*. Doubleday.  
 Andrews, R. C. *On the Trail of Ancient Man*. Putnam.  
 Arliss, George. *Up the Years from Bloomsbury*. Little.  
 Auslander, Joseph, and F. E. Hill. *The Winged Horse*. Doubleday.  
 Becker, M. L. *Adventures in Reading*. Stokes.  
 Bedford-Jones, Henry. *The King's Passport*. Putnam.  
 —*Saint Michael's Gold*. Putnam.  
 Beebe, C. W. *The Arcturus Adventure*. Putnam.  
 Benson, E. F. *Sir Francis Drake*. Harper.  
 Bill, A. H. *The Clutch of the Corsican*. Atlantic Monthly.  
 Bishop, Farnham, and A. G. Brodeur. *The Altar of the Legion*. Little.  
 Bojer, Johan. *The Emigrants*. Century.  
 Boyd, James. *Drums*. Scribner.  
 —*Marching On*. Scribner.  
 Broster, D. K. *Mr. Rowl*. Doubleday.  
 Byrd, R. E. *Skyward*. Putnam.  
 Byrne, Donn. *Hangman's House*. Century.  
 Cather, Willa S. *Death Comes for the Archbishop*. Knopf.  
 Chase, M. E. *Mary Christmas*. Little.  
 —*Uplands*. Little.  
 Clough, Sophia. *Ernestine Sophie*. Macmillan.  
 Conner, Sabra. *The Quest of the Sea Otter*. Reilly and Lee.  
 Cooper, C. R. *The Golden Bubble*. Little.  
 Davis, W. S. *Gilman of Redford*. Macmillan.  
 Douglas, Donald. *The Black Douglas*. Doran.  
 Dunsany, Edward J. M. D. P. *Don Rodriguez*. Putnam.  
 Finger, C. J. *David Livingstone*. Doubleday.  
 Fulanain. *The Marsh Arab*. Lippincott.  
 Furman, Lucy. *The Glass Window*. Little.  
 Garland, Hamlin. *A Daughter of the Middle Border*. Macmillan.  
 —*A Son of the Middle Border*. Macmillan.  
 —*Trail-makers of the Middle Border*. Macmillan.

- Hargreaves, S. C. *The Cabin at the Trail's End*. Harper.  
 Harper, T. A. and Winifred. *Siberian Gold*. Doubleday.  
 Hergesheimer, Joseph. *Balisand*. Knopf.  
 Horn, A. A. *Trader Horn*. Literary Guild.  
 Johnson, G. W. *Andrew Jackson*. Minton Balch.  
 Johnson, M. E. *Safari*. Putnam.  
 Kelly, E. M. *Basquerie*. Harper.  
 Lagerlöf, S. O. L. *Charlotte Lowenskold*. Doubleday.  
 —*The General's Ring*. Doubleday.  
 —*The Treasure*. Doubleday.  
 Lamb, Harold. *Genghis Khan*. McBride.  
 Lawrence, T. E. *Revolt in the Desert*. Doran.  
 Le May, Alan. *Old Father of Waters*. Doubleday.  
 Lesterman, John. *The Adventures of a Trafalgar Lad*. Harcourt.  
 Lindbergh, C. A. *We*. Putnam.  
 Locke, W. J. *Perella*. Dodd.  
 Lovelace, M. H. *The Black Angels*. John Day.  
 Markham, Virgil. *The Scamp*. Macmillan.  
 Maurois, André. *Disraeli*. Appleton.  
 Minnigerode, Meade. *Cordelia Chantrell*. Putnam.  
 Molnar, Ferenc. *The Paul Street Boys*. Macy-Masius.  
 Moore, Anne C. *Crossroads to Childhood*. Doran.  
 Moore, J. T. *Hearts of Hickory*. Cokesbury Press.  
 Morrow, H. W. *We Must March*. Stokes.  
 Noel, J. B. L. *The Story of Everest*. Little.  
 Quick, Herbert and Edward. *Mississippi Steamboat*. Holt.  
 Rittenhouse, J. B. *The Third Book of Modern Verse*. Houghton Mifflin.  
 Rollins, P. A. *Jinglebob*. Scribner.  
 Rolvaag, Ole. *Giants in the Earth*. Harper.  
 Sabatini, Rafael. *The Carolinian*. Houghton.  
 Sandburg, Carl. *Abraham Lincoln, the Prairie Years*. Harcourt.  
 Sawtell, R. O., and Ida Treat. *Primitive Hearths in the Pyrenees*. Appleton.  
 Silvestre, Charles. *Aimée Villard*. Macmillan.  
 Siringo, C. A. *Riata and Spurs*. Houghton.  
 Stone, E. C. *The Laughingest Lady*. Appleton.  
 Suckow, Ruth. *The Bonney Family*. Knopf.  
 Thomas, L. J. *The Boys' Life of Laurence*. Century.  
 —*With Laurence in Arabia*. Century.  
 Untermeyer, Louis. *Yesterday and Today*. Harcourt.  
 Vestal, Stanley. *Kit Carson*. Houghton.  
 Walpole, Hugh. *Jeremy at Crale*. Doran.  
 White, S. E. *Lions in the Path*. Doubleday.  
 Young, Stark. *Heaven Trees*. Scribner.

# LEATHER PRESERVATION

BY DR. G. E. WIRE

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SO MANY inquiries, personally and by letter, have been received concerning our methods of preserving leather, that it seems best to explain somewhat in detail these methods, and to give still more and further information on these and related subjects, for the benefit of those interested. Careful examination of all the books on practical bookbinding, published in England and America for the last sixty years, shows that no adequate treatment of the subject of leather preservation has been accorded to it in any of these works. Conversation with American, English, Swedish, and Finnish bookbinders has proved that they were entirely ignorant of the first principles of leather preservation.

In addition to the books on practical bookbinding, our English friends have also issued three reports on the subject of binding leathers, their tannage and decay. These show good, hard, conscientious work on the part of our English brethren, a thoroughness of investigation, and a faithful adherence to the most rigorous and complicated methods of leather testing, which leaves nothing to be desired in that line of work. But nowhere do we find any adequate information on the care and preservation of ordinary leather bindings. There are many books on the manufacture of leather, including binding leathers, and also preservation of, and dressings for, leather goods. But so far as we know there is no satisfactory treatment of the preservation of leather-bound books, such as the law library contains by the thousand. If we are mistaken in this statement we welcome corrections. There seemed to be nothing to do but let them decay, and then rebake, if sewing and bands were good, if not rebind, usually in the same kind of leather to rot out some more. All binding leathers must be finished comparatively dry, so as to take gilding and finishing well. Two pieces of the same calf or goat-skin, one finished for the boot and shoe trade, and one for the binding trade, both done in the same tannery, by the same men and machinery, aside from the artificial grain, may be readily distinguished by the absence of oil, grease or stuffing, alone in the binding leather, and the presence of these agents in the piece treated for the boot and shoe trade.

Of course the expensive bookbinders have in their employ experts who can and do clean and repair fine bindings, just as they have experts who can clean and repair the printed pages of

these same rare and costly volumes. But these processes are largely either trade secrets, or handed down from one generation to another, and are not available for the use of the general public.

We are now writing of the preservation of ordinary leather-bound books, such as are found by the thousands in law libraries in this country and in England, books for the most part whose leather and binding date back to 1850. Comparatively few bindings antedate that figure, and when they do, their calf and sheep are better than those on later volumes as a general thing. These remarks will apply to any leather covering, where the color is not so delicate as to be affected by the preservative. Thousands of volumes of the United States "sheep bound set," of other documents, of the older literature of theology, science, medicine, as well as law, are in the same forlorn condition, as are our law books. Previous to 1850 but few books were bound in cloth.

Materials needed are vaseline, varnish, air, sun, strength, patience, observation and time. By vaseline we mean any of the higher grade preparations of this petroleum by-product. We use Lucelline put up for medical use by the Lucent Oil Co., of Philadelphia, Pa., and generally to be obtained from any large paint and oil house or wholesale druggist. But any other high grade product of this character will do. The ordinary commercial vaseline, which used to retail at ten cents a pound, is what we began our work with, but in ordering a supply we were given Lucelline, and it has been so satisfactory that we have used it entirely for the last twenty years. This product has risen in price in the last few years and our market price in Worcester is now thirty cents a pound by the five pound can.

For varnish we now use and recommend Barco, made by the Holliston Mills Inc., Norwood, Mass., and to be obtained at all of their agencies thruout the country. We buy it by the quart package and the last one cost us \$1.50 delivered. We apply it full strength. We used to thin out the varnish, but of late years, and after much experience we have come to the conclusion that full strength is best. If it becomes too thick we do reduce it with denatured alcohol.

The work should be done in a well lighted, airy place, better in the summer months when

windows can be opened, than to depend entirely on artificial heat to dry in the vaseline.

A smooth pine table, some pine shelves to hold one or two hundred volumes are necessary. The agent is best applied with the bare hand. The nails should be cut short and sleeves cut short or rolled up, and a long frock or apron should be worn by the operator. If the floor be an oiled concrete floor such as we have in our stack room, no damage will be done, also if it be an ordinary hard pine floor. But if it be any stone floor, or be covered with any substance like linoleum or cork carpet, it were best to protect the floor or covering with layers of heavy paper or else use sawdust on it. All surrounding and contiguous objects, shelves, trucks, floor, etc., are liable to become more or less anointed, so that due warning should be taken of the dangers and consequences. Plenty of soft cloths and one or two small pans for holding the agent should be provided and of course opportunities for washing up at the close of the day's work.

The work can be done by your janitor or charwoman just as well as by an outsider. College libraries can utilize student help. Any person of ordinary intelligence and sufficient strength and judgment can do the work. One of your own staff can do this work a few volumes at a time, and, watching them to see when they are dry, can go on with a few more volumes. In damp or muggy weather, such as the dog days, we found the progress was slow; the vaseline would not penetrate the leather. The process has a tendency slightly to swell outward both front and back covers, and so the volumes have to be spaced out on shelves for several months until they can be closely ranked together again. If closely packed on the shelves they cling tightly to each other and there is danger of pulling a whole shelf full of books onto the floor, when you only wanted one volume in your hand.

One person should not be expected or allowed to do more than 85 octavo volumes in one day of seven hours. If the work needs to be rushed more than this, put on more helpers. Each volume should be rubbed from three to five times, according to the condition of the leather, to insure the best results.

From twenty to fifty volumes being placed on the table, the operator, being suitably attired and having a small panful of the agent before him, places a volume on the table, back up, and first anoints the back, rubbing it well into the grain of the leather. The sides are next treated, also the edges, care being taken not to get any on the paper. Small portions should be used and well rubbed in with a firm flexible hand. The first application will rapidly absorb as a general thing, then a second

lot is put on and well rubbed down as before. Care should be taken to put more of the agent into the back and the edges of the back, in proportion of 2 to 1 or 3 to 1, to that rubbed into the sides. The volume is now put on the drying shelves, a half inch or so between it and its fellow, and the next volume is taken in hand. Too much stress cannot be laid on this matter of rubbing in the agent. The labor costs more than the material, but good, hard, conscientious and faithful rubbing is the main part of the treatment. It is the only way to incorporate the preservative in the leather. Merely dabbing it on with a cloth or pad of cotton and rubbing it off again, while of course better than nothing, will not give good results. Putting on a quantity at a time and depending on itself to dry in will not do either. We have volumes on our shelves which have been drying for seven months and will have to be gone over again and thoroly rubbed before they will be fit for use. No light rubbing with pads of cotton or cloth will take the place of the bare hand, full palm being used.

The volumes should remain on the drying shelves at least over night, or if that cannot be done, from early in the morning until late in the afternoon. They are then carefully examined and all surplus material rubbed into the dry spots of the leather. If possible they should remain out of the regular shelves another day before being wiped with a soft cloth and spaced out on the regular shelves.

These are the general principles of the process as clearly and distinctly stated as can be on paper. Much difference will be found between the leather on any set of state reports, even when long runs are bound at the same time. This will be true of long runs of periodicals covering approximately the same period of time. This difference will be more apparent in the covering of reports or periodicals, bound as they appear, volume by volume or year by year, whether by the same binder or not. The skins will vary constantly. Sheep as a rule absorbs more vaseline than does calf skin. Then again some sheep skins are alum tanned or have other dressings which prevent their absorbing as much of the preservatives. The older sheep skins, like the older calf skins are the best skins, and have the best tannage. The board under the leather also makes some difference in the matter of absorption and there is probably some difference between glue and paste used to fasten the leather to the board. The operator should exercise judgment, and be able to learn quickly, by the feeling of the leather, just how much of the agent to use, and to estimate how much of the agent the leather will absorb. Too much stress cannot be laid on the question of rubbing, and rubbing and rubbing again by strong flexible

hands. It will not do to daub a lot of the agent on the leather and trust to luck and time for the absorption of the agent.

In using the books for the first six months it may be necessary to watch them as issued to readers, and to have a cloth handy for an extra rubbing or wiping if the agent is not incorporated into the leather, before taking them to the reading room. If the readers be admitted to the stacks care must be taken that they do not soil their hands or clothes on the books or shelves. In the course of from six months to a year, depending on all the various conditions given above, the leather will assume a shiny appearance, not sticky as a general thing, and not showing finger marks. The older the leather and the darker before the application, the darker it will be after the application. The average of the sheep bound reports in this library now have a dark tan shade on which gold lettering shows up plainly, whereas on newly bound sheep books, gold lettering is of no contrasting shade. It will readily be seen that as a rule the newer the leather, less than five years old, the less preservative it will need, as the decay does not begin in so short a time. This process once thoroly done should not need to be repeated short of at least ten years, depending of course on local conditions, state of the leather, use of the books, atmosphere outside the building and in the stack room.

Our first work of this kind was done in the summer of 1903 and we did not use as much of the preservative as we do now. But the books so treated are looking well and wearing well. The leather has a firm yet soft feeling and the disintegration and decay has been arrested. Does this leather so treated have a tendency to collect dust and dirt? Not according to our experience in this library. On the contrary it to a large extent, dependent on age of binding and condition of leather, arrests decay and stops the disintegration so common in law libraries and document collections. We are cleaning the books in the stack room constantly, and before they were all vaselined the difference was marked between the aisles where were the vaselined and the unvaselined books. In the former aisles there was little or none of the small particles of decayed leather to be seen on the floor after they had been taken from the shelves and wiped with a damp cloth. In the latter the mere rubbing or wiping with a damp cloth, not only left its marks on the cloths, but more or less particles were constantly falling on the concrete floor of the stack room, to be brushed up and removed later. We wish here to emphasize the fact that we do not recommend this process except for any leather whose color or shade will stand the change without harm. The darker

shades of calf and morocco as yet have not been treated by it except in isolated examples. So far as we have seen in these few examples it does not make any perceptible difference in the shade. But we do not recommend its use on the delicate shades of calf or morocco such as are found on gift books. That whole subject of fancy and expensive bindings is outside the limits of this article. There are private or secret processes and expensive binders for such work. In case of new books (new with us means inside of five years), we find the agent does not perceptibly darken the sheep skin. We are using it on all our new sheep bindings, of which we have comparatively few owing to our insistence on the use of buckram or other cloths on new books, and find it works even better on them than on older books.

Having treated the book with the preservative and thoroly dried it in, we polish the surface with a soft cloth and now proceed to varnish. This we do only to text-books as a general thing. There is no reason why it should not be applied to all books if you wish to go to the expense.

We put a small quantity, not over one ounce at a time, in a small enamel or earthen cup or pan, and with a flat camel's hair brush one inch wide, we proceed as follows. Slightly opening the covers, leaving both of them free, and holding the book by the fore edge in the left hand, apply the varnish with the brush in the right hand, quickly, lightly and evenly, first to the back and then to the sides and edges. This will allow the back to dry in time to receive a second coat before the volume is laid face down, or stood erect, to dry a few hours, better over night, before going back on the shelves.

If the weather be damp and moist the book is liable to be sticky or tacky, and, of course, if packed too closely with other books will adhere to them. This varnishing over the vaseline seals the leather and gives it a clean hard surface very agreeable both to sight and touch. We also varnish the backs of all smooth finished cloth bound text books, and if the cloth is extra light colored or subject to much usage we varnish the entire book. All dirt, dust and mud may be instantly wiped off the varnished surface with a damp cloth. Pastewashing and varnishing tends to crack and destroy the leather, and does not soften or preserve it in the slightest degree. But the combination of vaselining and varnishing in our experience is the best thing for the text books. As a general thing a better grade of leather is used on text books than on the reports, and the text books so treated look better than a row of reports of the same general age and appearance. The average sheep skin on our reports is very similar to that found on the sheep bound set of United States Docu-



ments, and a volume, 4430, date of 1903, of that set sent on to us for treatment from the Simmons Library School resembles in appearance our reports of that same year.

Our work has been exclusively on law books and law leathers, but these processes, in whole or in part, or a modification of them, are suited to other leather bound books in other libraries. In all public and college libraries having what is known as the sheep bound sets of government documents, will be found hundreds if not thousands of volumes needing vaseline just as did our sets of state reports. Also all the whole or half calf or sheep bound sets of periodicals, societies and transactions need the same treatment. In case of much used sets, as the *North American Review*, it might be advisable to varnish as well as vaseline. Also sets in half cow or goat as well as full bindings may be much improved by using this process. In the case of single volumes or small sets, especially in morocco, half or full, of dark shades where the leather is soiled or dirty, it may be advisable to wash them in ivory soap and water. Care, of course, should be taken to dampen the entire leather surface and not to wet the end papers, or in case of half or three-quarter bindings, not to dampen the side paper or cloth. So much care is not advisable in ordinary sheep bindings, altho as a rule any preservative penetrates the damp leather more quickly and deeply than the dry leather. We thus washed and vaselined a full bound book in dark green morocco and then varnished it, producing an admirable effect and much improving what before had been a soiled and disreputable binding. Of course in treating half or three-quarter bindings care must be taken not to get vaseline on the end papers or side cloths or papers. It does them no good and only stains them. If it can be afforded, and such cloth sides are smooth finished cloth, they may be much improved by a coat of varnish.

These methods are also applicable to half or three-quarter bindings used in so many public libraries for fiction and juvenile, or to the publishers' bindings of ordinary cloth, or the A. L. A. re-enforced bindings, or the various special half leather bindings now on the market. More than any of these is the full process needed on the cheap half leather bindings, usually cowskin, cowskin buffing or sheep roan, which many of the smaller libraries are forced to use on their hardest used books, fiction and juvenile. These books rot out or crack out in a short time and need the preserving power of the vaseline. More than the longer lived and better leathers do these cheaper leathers need the preservative. These leathers, cow or sheep skin, need as much or more care than the better

leather, full covered sheep books. One heavy coat of vaseline well rubbed in, with some extra on the back, should be allowed to dry thoroly before the second coat is applied. This second coat should be done carefully, pains being taken not to leave any dry spots. When this second coat is thoroly dry and the new life is apparent, then may the leather be varnished, and, of course, the paper or cloth sides may share in this coat, and the book have plenty of time to dry. Then you have a book which, if reasonably well bound in the first place, will stand about all possible abuse from the careless borrower.

It goes without saying that the smaller the book fund and binding fund, the more imperative is the need of economy in binding and repair to make the money go as far as possible. This process when applied to the newly rebound book before issuing, will add fifty per cent to the life of that binding. Even with the older and much worn and soiled binding, it will materially prolong the life of the binding, and increase the use of the book by so much.

The ordinary publishers' cloth binding is a thin, fine grained cloth of some light shade, stamped with letters and designs in gold and various colors. The most that can be done with this is to give it a coat of varnish on both sides and back and let it dry thoroly before the book is issued. This also applies to the heavier buckram bindings, if the buckram is smooth finished, and to the special re-enforced A. L. A. bindings. Such varnished bindings resist dirt, rain, mud, grease and fingermarks, and can be wiped clean with a damp cloth, said cloth being moistened with an antiseptic solution if necessary. The better grade of new bindings in three-quarter cow or pig skin need two coats of vaseline, if time can be spared, always giving an extra supply to the back. When dry, varnish the whole book, leather back and paper or cloth sides, and you have a handsome and durable binding which should outwear the paper in most cases.

In closing we wish to repeat what we have so often written in former reports. We disclaim any empiric methods and give only the results of our own investigations, observations and work, which have long passed the experimental stage. We are aware that there are other agents, and other processes, but we give here what we have tried and found good. Nor do we claim unreasonable virtues for these processes, but this we do claim, that for the money cost (from one cent to three cents a volume according to price of labor and materials), we have not yet found any process so efficacious, easy and satisfactory.



# HOW PERIODICALS AID RESEARCH

BY HENRY O. SEVERANCE

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PERIODICALS aid research by furnishing the research worker with two kinds of information: (1) The results of work in research which has been completed so that the research worker may not spend effort on a problem which has already been solved; (2) The results of work in the same field as the problem chosen or some phase of the problem and the results of work in other fields which are related to his problem and may contribute to its solution. The research worker can make little progress without the articles and references in periodical literature to show him what has already been done and to point him to unsolved problems in a virgin field for investigation.

It is assumed that librarians are more familiar with periodical literature of all classes than they are with the problems and methods of research. It is therefore desirable that we consider the meaning of research. Research has several definitions, such as: "Research is finding out something, adding something to the known." Again: "Research is the process of discovering something new." In science, Dr. E. Emmet Reid writes: "The line is drawn sharply, and the object discovered must not have been known before."

The student's first step in planning to investigate a certain subject is to ascertain just what has been written so that whatever results he gets will be really new or an addition to what is already known. To secure this information he must consult the periodical literature and the literature of books in the field in which his problem lies. The keys which unlock the doors to this collection of material is the catalog of the books in the library, the several national bibliographies such as the *United States Catalog* and the *English Catalogue*, and the reviews of books in the representative journals in his field of investigation. For instance, if his problem lies in the field of economics, he would consult the book reviews in the *American Economic Journal*. He would consult also a bibliography of his field, if one exists. The next set of keys are the several indexes to periodical literature such as *Poole's Index*, the *Readers' Guide*, the *International Index*, the *Magazine Subject Index*, and the indexes of periodicals devoted to the special field of his investigation. In addition to all these he must read the latest numbers of periodicals, general and the special, which publish the results of research work in his

chosen field. He should know also the doctoral dissertations in progress in his field as well as those which have been completed and published. In political science, such a list will be found in an annual number of the *American Political Science Review*; in economics, in the *American Economic Review*; in sociology, in the *American Journal of Sociology*. Similar lists may be found in the journals devoted to special fields. He should consult also lists of theses on special subjects such as Romance, and the general lists issued by universities and the abstracts of theses presented to the university published by the University of Chicago. The Department of Historical Research of the Carnegie Institute publishes annual lists of doctoral dissertations in history at the chief American universities. In the sciences, the "Reprint and Circular" series of the National Research Council, No. 30, gives a list of the doctorates conferred in the sciences in American universities in 1926-27. Every field of learning has its own literature and its special periodicals. In botany, for instance, the research worker would consult the *Botanical Abstracts*, *Biological Abstracts*, and the indexes of the many journals in this field of investigation. The field of medicine which includes anatomy, physiology, bacteriology, pathology, and the like has its special journals and its *Index Medicus* and the *Quarterly Cumulative Index to Current Medical Literature*.

It is especially true in the biological and medical sciences that the periodicals publish all the results of experiments, investigation, and studies. Where should we find the latest information on the nature and treatment of pernicious anaemia if not in the medical journals? It is well known that books on medical subjects are out of date nearly as soon as published because of the advance in medical research. The books are based on the information contained in the periodical. The medical faculty of the University of Missouri requires few books but many periodicals. A research student should not think of experimenting on the diet of a man suffering with pernicious anaemia without reading the very latest results of the liver diet which is generally prescribed by physicians.

In agriculture, there are a greater number of investigations going on all the time than there are in any other field, judging from the subjects listed in the *Agricultural Index*, the *Experiment Station Record* and the *Journal of Agricultural*

*Research.* The need for special investigations to discover the causes of pests and plagues, such as the corn borer and boll weevil, which were making farming such a hazard, brought about the establishment of the U. S. Agricultural Experiment Stations, devoted exclusively to the function of investigations, the results of which are published in the *Agricultural Experiment Station Record* and other U. S. Department of Agriculture publications.

For a similar reason, the Engineering Experiment Stations were established in our engineering colleges. The results of the experiments and investigations in highway construction, the strength of materials for roads and buildings, water power sites, the flow of rivers and streams, sewage disposal, lighting and water for rural homes are published in the bulletins of the several stations, and in the various engineering periodicals which are indexed in the *Annual Engineering Index* and the *Industrial Arts Index*.

In teachers colleges and schools of education, the experiment stations are called bureaus of educational research which foster a multitude of investigations into the various phases of educational problems. The educational research association publishes the *Journal of Educational Research*. The National Education Association has established a research service and publishes results in the research bulletin. In any discussion of educational problems, the bulletins of the U. S. Bureau of Education should not be overlooked.

If a research chemist should decide to make further investigations on ethyl alcohol, he would be very foolish to proceed without reading the 148 references to articles containing something new or new phases of the subject of ethyl alcohol which he would find in *Chemical Abstracts* and in the indexes to chemical journals. Dr. Reid in his *Introduction to Organic Research* writes that, "chemical literature is published in periodicals and in books. At the present time practically all the results of investigation appear as articles in the journals, some journals containing nothing else while others have editorials, reports of meetings and other material. It is possible to get all that has been found out about any subject from the journals, ignoring books completely, but books may be of great assistance as summaries and particularly as guides to journals."

The Royal Society of London began the publication of the *Philosophical Transactions* in 1665; the Académie des Sciences began the *Comptes Rendus* in 1776. These periodicals like those of many other scientific and learned societies were projected for the purpose of publishing the results of various investigations by their members. The American Chemical So-

ciety, the largest chemical society in the world, publishes in its journal results of experiments in the numerous laboratories of this country. Hundreds of societies have established their own periodicals for the publication of original work by their members. Research work without immediate publication in a periodical is unthinkable. The periodical therefore is the handmaid of the researcher.

The periodical furnishes a medium for the publication of the results of investigations. It aids research also by stimulating production. The fact that other students are carrying on some investigations either in the laboratory or in the library and that there is a medium for publishing worth while material is an incentive for the student to do his best. In 1926 the University of Missouri established the *University of Missouri Studies*, a quarterly of research, for the specific purpose of stimulating research on the part of faculty and students. Faculty men have submitted papers considered worthy of publication in this journal. Graduate students have submitted certain theses, presented in partial fulfillment of the requirements for a doctor's degree, which have been accepted for publication.

The second step in planning to investigate a certain subject is to compile a bibliography of the subject. "The development of a bibliography," wrote W. C. Schluter in his book, *How to Do Research Work*, "of the literature relating to the field chosen for research plays an important part in providing a background for a thorough survey. In doing so it serves a two-fold purpose: (1) Obtaining knowledge of the field, (2) Discovering the extent to which the field has already been investigated with satisfactory or unsatisfactory results." These sources are: (1) the card catalogs of the libraries, (2) the periodical indexes, (3) the bibliographies and (4) the reference books which give sources of material. Of all these sources none are more essential than the periodical indexes.

Let us suppose for illustration that a research student has chosen to investigate the subject: "Roosevelt and the Russo-Japanese War." He will first determine whether some student has treated the subject as he proposes to treat it as indicated above. At the same time he will make a list of authors and titles not only of books but of magazine articles touching every phase of the subject. He would want to consult all articles and books on Roosevelt—his foreign policy, his knowledge of Russian history and diplomacy, of Japanese history and diplomacy, his attitude toward peace, his knowledge of Japanese and Russian character, and other qualities of mind and heart which enabled him to bring about an agreement between these two warring

nations. The student would need to study the history and foreign policies of Japan and Russia; the causes of friction which led up to the declaration of war and so on.

For the purpose of locating this material, the student must examine the references listed in *Poolé's Index*, the *Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature*, *International Index to Periodicals*, *Annual Magazine Subject Index* and indexes to historical journals, economic and political science journals and the like. Then, too, he must consult current numbers of periodicals which contain articles not yet included in the indexes indicated above. He must have up to the minute information.

Having compiled a list of the literature bearing on the subject under investigation, he must make a survey of it by examining the articles in the magazines and those in current magazines

not yet indexed. The research worker who does not read the current journals devoted to the field in which he is working is "like a blind man at the movies."

The periodical is the main tool which the researcher uses in the field of the humanities. It is next in importance only to the microscope and the chemical reagents in the scientific laboratories.

How does the periodical aid research? It gives the researcher the desired information of research work which has been done and furnishes the main body of literature in the field in which he is to work and in other fields adjacent to it, and overlapping it. It is the indispensable tool of any man who is pursuing research and may furnish him information which he can not secure from any other source.

## CO-OPERATIVE CATALOGING

COLLEGE and university libraries are reporting that from twenty to seventy-five per cent of their annual accessions are not covered by Library of Congress printed cards. The economic waste involved in libraries' duplicating labor by cataloging, each for itself, titles which exist in duplicate in several libraries is large enough so that it should be the subject of serious consideration and investigation not only by catalogers but by administrators in charge of our library systems, said T. Franklin Currier of the Harvard University Library and Harriet B. Prescott of the Columbia University Library, in their report to the A. L. A. Catalog Section in their capacity of Committee on Co-operative Cataloging.

The investigation suggested should cover the whole field of the extension of cataloging service as now rendered to libraries by the Library of Congress, including the relation to this extension of service of the universal or union catalog, the extent to which we may be helped by foreign bibliographical undertakings and card printing schemes, the question of so-called co-operation as against a plan of full payment for services received, the relation of the Library of Congress card section to such extension of the work in this line that it has itself so skillfully and efficiently carried on for some thirty years, the effect of varying catalog practices, the best or most practical methods of card reproduction, in so far as they apply to this investigation, the necessity of uniform subject headings, the advisability of adding D. C. and L. C. numbers, the preparation of analytical titles including cards for monographs issued in series, the rela-

tive importance of card versus book indexes for analytics, the needs of public libraries in their foreign language departments, also the question of financing, and any other lines of investigation that will lead to a final and authoritative report upon which official action may be based that will be ensured of success. The investigator should outline a practicable working program.

It was voted that the Catalog Section, thru its incoming chairman, make an appeal to the American Library Association for an appropriation of not over five thousand dollars for the purpose of making an investigation and report, and outlining a program for the extension of cataloging service to libraries using the card system, said report to be conducted under the general direction of the A. L. A. Committee on Cataloging. In view of the fact that more detailed specifications are desirable, it was also voted that the incoming chairman continue the present Committee on Co-operative Cataloging with the addition of Eliza Lamb, and that this Committee be asked to make a more detailed statement of the cost of this investigation and that the matter be then presented to the A. L. A. before the mid-winter meeting.

The responsibility for union or universal catalogs, in the opinion of the Committee, should be left to specialized institutions or libraries, singly or in groups, or to societies in so far as it concerns union catalogs covering special fields. The subsidization of huge universal catalogs, whether at Washington, Brussels or elsewhere, should be left to national, private, or corporate initiative thru the appropriation of sums sufficient for the accomplishment in view.

# CAN THE CATALOGUE OF THE BIBLIOTHEQUE NATIONALE BE COMPLETED IN TEN YEARS?\*

By C. C. WILLIAMSON

Director of Libraries, Columbia University

FORTUNATELY for my present purpose it is not necessary to attempt to describe the existing system of catalogs of the Bibliothèque Nationale. A list of the "principal catalogs" appearing in the 1926 edition of a *Guide du Lecteur à la Bibliothèque Nationale* contains twenty-three items, certain of which represent in themselves a multiplicity of catalogs. First in the list, and most important, is the *Catalogue Général*, which even in its present uncompleted form has only one rival for the premier position among the great printed book catalogs of the world, and that is of course the catalog of printed books in the British Museum.

After a long period of discussion as to what should be done to provide an adequate catalog, the *Catalogue Général* was begun in 1894 in accordance with a plan prepared by a special government commission appointed to study the problem. Under this plan the catalog was to consist of three series. The first, and most extensive, was to contain all books and pamphlets by known authors. The second series was to contain all anonymous works and those issued by bodies corporate. Works appearing anonymously are to appear in this second series even tho their authors have been identified and therefore included in the first series. The third, and least important at this time, was to be a series of volumes devoted to special subjects.

The first volume of the author catalog appeared in 1897. Ninety volumes have now been published, bringing the alphabet down to word *LeCompte*. While this is perhaps a little more than half way thru the alphabet, the volume of material bulks larger with the lapse of time. It is estimated that this first series will require ninety-six more volumes to bring it to completion. Each volume is octavo in size, with about 625 pages, double column, printed in legible type, the author's surname in bold face capitals.

Even in its present incomplete form the *Catalogue Général* has come to be looked upon as an indispensable tool in all scholarly libraries, especially those which have to do with French books. Mr. T. Franklin Currier, of the Harvard College Library, writes as follows in reply to a

request for a statement of the value of the *Catalogue* in his library:

"In many ways it is the most useful general bibliographical work that we have. While we were printing our cards for the letters previous to the point which it has now reached, my assistant constantly had a volume on her desk, and found it of the greatest help, not only for French, but for the minor languages of Europe, such as Hungarian. Of course, its vast wealth of early and renaissance literature and of foreign works is of great importance. The work is accurate, clear and well arranged, and we would even go so far as to say that we find it fully as useful as the British Museum *Catalogue*, except, of course, for English books."

From Miss Reba S. Cowley, the chief cataloger of the Princeton University Library, and from others we have received many specific reasons for considering the *Catalogue Général* an invaluable tool for catalogers. For voluminous authors, such as Dumas, Balzac, and Hugo, it is especially valuable for the complete and well indexed record of the many editions, translations and varying titles (See Vol. I, p. LXVIII-LXIX, of the *Catalogue Général*). This is true not only for the French but for authors in all languages, notably Greek and Latin writers, and such German authors as Goethe and Frederick the Great. References from editor's or translator's name to the author frequently serve to establish an entry. References are often given from pseudonyms to real names. With the exception of Arabian, Greek and Latin, entries conform more nearly to L. C. than do those of the British Museum. A book by two authors is entered under both. "We are constantly wanting," says Miss Cowley, "to refer to volumes not yet published. Quérard and Lorenz are not nearly so accurate," "and," adds Miss Prescott, of Columbia University, "not nearly so complete."

Many of the features which make the *Catalogue* valuable to the cataloging department are of equal importance for the reference department or for the order department. The name of the publisher is given, for example, which is a point of superiority over the British Museum *Catalogue*. The fullness of collation, the contents notes, and the series notes are of value in dealing with bibliographical questions.

\*Based on a paper presented to the Catalog Section of the American Library Association, West Baden, Indiana, May 29, 1928.



Many reprints and extracts from journals, translations, and other publications, even from government documents, are included with exact references to the place of original publication. The *Catalogue* thus serves to a considerable extent as an index to the unanalyzed French series to be found in all large libraries.

The Bibliothèque Nationale is perhaps the largest library in the world. Since the reign of Henry II it has enjoyed the *depôt légal*, corresponding to the copyright deposit of the Library of Congress and the British Museum. Consequently its collections are practically complete for French authors. The following example of the superiority of the *Catalogue Général* over other bibliographies has been furnished by Miss Isadore G. Mudge, reference librarian, Columbia University. Casimir Delavigne was a nineteenth century dramatist, poet, etc. Four much used French bibliographies—Vicaire, Lorenz, Thieme and Lanson—together list a total of about seventy titles and editions of his works, not counting obvious duplicates. For the same author the *Catalogue Général* lists one hundred and sixty-eight titles and editions, not including duplicates and reprints, and at the same time gives fuller titles, notes, etc., than are to be found in most of the other sources. In the case of several other authors for which a similar comparison was made the results were practically the same.

Ninety volumes of the present series have appeared in the last thirty years, or an average of three volumes a year. Production has been as high as six volumes a year, but came practically to a standstill during the latter part of the War. In 1917 and again in 1918 only one volume was issued. With its present resources the *Bibliothèque Nationale* cannot publish more than four volumes a year, which means that the letter Z cannot be completed until after the middle of the century.

Primarily because of the urgent need of the *Catalogue Général* in the work of the Bibliothèque Nationale itself, Monsieur Roland-Marcel, soon after he became director, in 1924, conceived the idea of photostating the old cards or *fiches* in their present form, not only for the remainder of the author catalog, but also for the greater part of the anonymous works. This plan was announced in September, 1926, and is being carried out at the rate of some fifty volumes a year. Altogether there will be about three hundred and ten volumes of this provisional photostatic catalog, including music which will form nearly half of the total. Each volume contains 3,200 entries and is made up of fifty sheets of linen on each side of which is mounted a positive photostat print of four horizontal rows of eight cards each.

Some of the university libraries represented in the Conference of Eastern College Librarians desiring more information about this provisional photostat catalog, Mr. M. Humphreys, head of the order department at Yale University, was asked to report on it at the meeting of November, 1927. A summary of his report appeared in the *LIBRARY JOURNAL*, the complete report having been mimeographed and sent to all libraries thought likely to be interested. The number of such libraries was not large because the price of the entire set of photostatic volumes came to something like \$11,000. It was not necessary, however, for subscribers to take the entire set. They could select only the volumes on subjects in which they were interested, the number ranging from two volumes for bibliography to one hundred and fifty for music. The price per volume was \$35, bound.

Inasmuch as a discount running as high as eighteen per cent was offered in case several libraries should subscribe, the Secretary of the Conference of Eastern College Librarians entered into correspondence with all prospective subscribers in the hope that the maximum discount might be secured. It soon became apparent that not enough libraries would order to obtain even the minimum discount of five per cent. The main reason for this lack of interest was of course the high cost, but even the libraries that could have found the money felt that the defects and limitations of the *Catalogue* in this form were too serious to warrant the expenditure. From many correspondents, however, came the query, Why cannot the libraries that need the *Catalogue* of the Bibliothèque Nationale put any money they may be able to spend for it into some plan for hastening the completion of the printed catalog which will be of enormously greater value than the photostat catalog?

The Secretary of the Conference therefore entered into correspondence with M. Roland-Marcel with a view to finding an answer to this question. Later he conferred with him in Paris and more recently still in New York. It appears, as a result, that the rate of progress toward completion of the *Catalogue Général* will depend almost entirely on the amount of money available. M. Roland-Marcel does not consider it possible to secure a larger appropriation from the French government for this purpose. The full realization of the value of the catalog to scholarly libraries in the United States and Great Britain inevitably suggests that here is an excellent opportunity for library co-operation on an international scale.

M. Roland-Marcel is deeply interested in the project and can be relied upon to carry thru anything to which he puts his hand. He has



secured a change in the French laws, which permits him to accept private financial assistance and to manage the finances independently of any other government office or department. He now has a separate staff of twelve persons working on the *Catalogue Général*. As soon as funds are available he can bring back a number of trained and competent men now on the retired list. Before reaching the age of compulsory retirement these men were receiving 30,000 francs—\$1,200 a year. They now have an allowance of \$600 and will be glad to come back for \$600 more. M. Roland-Marcel has at hand ready made, therefore, a trained and dependable staff for greatly increasing his output. I cannot take the time here to describe the organization or methods. Anyone with experience in this kind of work can appreciate some of the difficulties encountered at every step. We can depend upon M. Roland-Marcel and his colleagues to keep up the high standard set in the first ninety volumes. We would doubtless go about the task somewhat differently, but I doubt whether our vaunted American efficiency methods would produce as large a result per dollar expended.

The title of this paper as it appears on the program suggests the completion of the *Catalogue*—meaning the completion of the present series of authors—in ten years. Personally I believe it can be done, but the plan for financing the undertaking approved by M. Roland-Marcel is a bit more conservative, being based on an estimate of twelve years. He estimates that to increase the annual production to eight volumes will require an additional income of 240,000 francs, or \$9,600, a year. To complete the present series in twelve years at the rate of eight volumes a year will therefore mean a total addition to the normal budgets of 2,880,000 francs, or \$115,200. To add this amount during the next twelve years to the budget of the department working on the *Catalogue Général* it will only be necessary, in the first place, for American and British libraries to buy the forty-five sets now on hand of ninety volumes each, and, secondly, for these libraries, as well as those already owning sets, to order the new volumes as they appear at the rate of \$10 a volume.

Of the original printed volumes—A to *Le Compte*—only five sets are left and these are held at 20,000 francs, or about \$800, which is a very low price in view of the improbability that more than a very few sets will ever come into the market. For ordinary library purposes the so-called "mixed edition" would seem to be quite as satisfactory. This set consists partly of original volumes printed from type and partly of volumes reproduced photographically by what

is known as the Catin process. At the present time the first thirty volumes of the "mixed edition" are in facsimile, the other sixty volumes consisting of originals. Everyone is familiar with anastatic reproductions, commonly referred to in this country as lithographic, tho of course zinc plates are used instead of stones and the printing is done by the offset process. By means of accurate machinery for printing and other improvements excellent results are now obtained in book work. The facsimile volumes of the *Catalogue Général* are printed on durable paper, a trifle thicker and more opaque than that used in the current printed volumes. Probably no one but the expert will notice the difference between the two kinds of volumes.

This mixed edition is available at 10,000 francs, or \$400, i. e., half the price of a set made up entirely of originals. About forty sets of the mixed edition are now available. It will be possible, of course, to reproduce more of the out-of-print volumes by the Catin process and thus increase the number of mixed sets, each containing a larger proportion of facsimile volumes than the forty sets now available. While there is this possibility of making up more sets, for practical purposes it should be considered that less than fifty sets are now available. When these are gone, which is likely to occur within a year as a result of the plan here set forth, libraries may find themselves in the unfortunate situation in which so many have long found themselves in respect to the catalog of the British Museum, of being unable to secure it, altho they are willing to pay almost any price for it.

Five sets of the *Catalogue Général* at 20,000 francs each and forty sets at 10,000 francs each will put into the hands of M. Roland-Marcel the sum of 500,000 francs—\$20,000—which will enable him to place his organization at once on a basis for bringing out eight volumes a year. Most of the remaining funds needed to continue at this rate for twelve years will be assured if present subscribers and those who purchase sets hereafter will agree to pay \$10 for each additional volume issued. There are about fifty sets in American libraries at the present time. It has proved difficult to get an accurate list from Paris because most libraries get their copies thru dealers, their destination being unknown to the Bibliothèque Nationale or the Imprimerie Nationale. If the forty-five available sets are purchased in Great Britain and the United States and Canada, it seems reasonable to assume that there will be at least one hundred sets in these countries. If the libraries owning these 100 sets will agree to pay \$10 a volume in the future, the revenue of \$3,000 a year for

twelve years will produce 2,400,000 francs and this, with the 500,000 francs from the sale of the forty-five sets in stock, will yield 2,900,000 francs, or a little more than the amount estimated by the Bibliothèque Nationale to be necessary to complete the present series in twelve years. There is therefore good ground for hoping that it can be accomplished in ten years.

You will want to know what ground we have for assuming that forty-five sets of the *Catalogue* can be sold at once. According to present information, it is owned by thirty-three college and university libraries, as follows: Amherst, Bryn Mawr, California, Chicago, Cincinnati, Clark, Columbia, Cornell, Dartmouth, Harvard, Illinois, Indiana, Johns Hopkins, Iowa State College, State University of Iowa, Kansas, Michigan (two copies), Minnesota, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Princeton, Rochester, Stanford, Syracuse, Texas, Tulane, Vanderbilt, Vassar, Washington, Wesleyan, and Wisconsin. Also by the public libraries of the following six cities: Boston, Cleveland, Detroit, New York (two copies), Newark, and St. Louis. The Library of Congress, the John Crerar Library, the New York State Library, Peabody Institute, the U. S. Department of Agriculture, the Smithsonian Institution, the Boston Athenaeum and the Grolier Club, New York, each have one set. In other words, forty-eight sets have been reported. A number may have been overlooked. Canadian and British institutions have not yet been canvassed.

A few of these libraries are at the present time receiving the current volumes of the *Catalogue* as a gift, either directly from the Bibliothèque Nationale or from the Ministry of Instruction. Those on the free list that have come to our attention are: Library of Congress, Smithsonian Institution, Harvard University, University of Missouri and Johns Hopkins University. It is proper that the National Library of France should show this courtesy to our own National Library. And on account of its services to all scholarly libraries probably no one will question the propriety of keeping the Smithsonian Institution on the free list. All other institutions will doubtless be willing to waive their exceptional privilege and join with the subscribing institutions in helping the Bibliothèque Nationale to complete this great bibliographical tool as rapidly as possible. Johns Hopkins reports that it receives the *Catalogue* on an exchange basis, but other universities which send all their publications to the Bibliothèque Nationale are nevertheless paying subscribers to the *Catalogue*. French Government officials responsible for the distribution have not heretofore been greatly concerned about the

revenue from sales nor have they been sufficiently familiar with our educational institutions to discriminate between those which should receive free copies and those which should pay. The University of Missouri receives a free copy but I have a strong suspicion that somebody in Paris, misled by the name of the city in which that university is located, thinks that copy is going to Columbia University, for in the lists sent to us from the Bibliothèque Nationale the address appears as "Columbia University, Missouri." Altho Columbia University sends hundreds of volumes to the Bibliothèque Nationale every year it pays for the *Catalogue Général* and is contemplating the purchase of a second set.

To satisfy myself that it is not beyond the realm of reason and possibility to count on disposing of forty-five sets of the *Catalogue Général* to scholarly libraries in the United States, Canada and Great Britain, which do not now have it, and to those which will desire a second set, I have made up some tentative lists of libraries which it seems to me will certainly make every effort to purchase a set before it is too late. In these lists are fifty college and university libraries in the United States, twenty public libraries, and a half dozen other endowed libraries that cannot afford to let this opportunity pass without acquiring a set which may never be offered to them again.

In at least six of the accredited library schools it appears not to be available for teaching purposes. Probably one reason that more of the libraries which buy and catalog French books and attempt to serve a clientele of students and scholars do not have this important tool is that it has not been taught in the library schools. Certainly every library school that tries to fit its graduates for responsible reference or cataloging positions in college, university and other scholarly libraries should own a set of the *Catalogue Général*.

Here are nearly eighty prospective purchasers for the forty-five sets and I have no doubt overlooked many others, perhaps half as many more, that should be in my lists. English librarians are also interested and ready to co-operate. Colonel Luxmoore Newcombe, director of the Central Library for Students, hopes to purchase a set for his own collection, and has prepared for us a list of seventy-three libraries in Great Britain and Ireland "which might be approached in reference to the *Catalogue*." The situation in Canada has not been canvassed at all, but there must be a market there for a few sets.

Full information will presently be sent to all libraries likely to be interested. It is important that orders should go directly to the Biblio-

thèque Nationale—not to the Ministry of Education, not to the Imprimerie Nationale and not to dealers, unless the dealer specifically waives his commission. In this way every cent of money paid by the co-operating libraries will go into the special fund in the Bibliothèque Nationale devoted to the work on the *Catalogue Général*. The Committee\* is not in a position to act as agent, yet it will be glad to transmit to M. Roland-Marcel orders for the volumes already published and for continuations. In any

case the Committee would like to be advised of any orders placed so that it can keep an accurate record of the progress made toward the desired goal.

\* The members of this Committee are: Asa Don Dickinson, librarian, University of Pennsylvania; James T. Gerould, librarian, Princeton University; Andrew Keogh, librarian, Yale University; H. M. Lydenberg, assistant director, New York Public Library; and C. C. Williamson, director of libraries, Columbia University, chairman.

## RECLASSIFICATION: ITS PROBLEMS AND TECHNIQUE

By RUDOLPH H. GJELSNESS

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THE perfect classification, even to meet all contemporary requirements, has never been devised; it is much less to be hoped that any one scheme of arrangement will find acceptance in its entirety, over a long period of time. Books remain in libraries, materially unchanged, for centuries, but readers' use of them, and attitude toward them, changes, as external aspects of human activities change from one generation to the next. This shift in the relation of books and readers recurs more frequently in a rapidly moving age such as the present, and in library service, is met more promptly in a country such as ours where the emphasis is on the use of books. To some degree, this explains the extent of reclassification now under way in American libraries.

A more fundamental cause is present in the mere factor of physical growth. Libraries have increased more rapidly during the past thirty years, than could reasonably have been foreseen in advance. It is obvious that a plan which was intended for a collection of fifty thousand volumes, would be stretched to the breaking point to care for half a million volumes. In many cases, that is exactly what has happened. In the period 1900-25, the University of California increased in volumes from 80,200 to 570,500; Illinois from 74,300 to 560,000; Michigan 145,000 to 596,600; Stanford 51,650 to 331,000.\* The scholar or research student can readily glance over one hundred books on a subject, but when the number has been increased to one thousand, it becomes a real inconvenience.

Many other factors have been operative to make reclassification desirable or necessary, to a great extent growing out of local conditions. Special libraries are absorbed into a general system and must be made to conform to the

practice of the whole; a specialized library develops from a general one, or vice versa; it is necessary to recatalog a considerable part of the collection; the record system is changed, i. e. substitution of a systematic catalog for a dictionary catalog; inconsistency exists in classification practice or extensive changes in the printed schemes originally adopted, to meet local demands, thereby preventing the effective use of later expansions. To these may be added the appearance in printed form of most of the schedules of the Library of Congress, at a time when libraries felt keenly the need of an up-to-date and detailed classification scheme.

At the outset, it must be recognized that reclassification means reorganization, that it is an expensive and trying ordeal, and that its full benefits are not of the day, but of the future. It is building a better structure as a basis for future service. It means much more than mere change of numbers; it affects all the basic records and is felt in all departments of the organization. During such a time, it is particularly important that there be co-operation between service departments and those directly concerned with the changes being made. It demands from the reference and circulation assistants an understanding of the problems involved so as properly to adjust the service to the changed order.

I can do no better than quote the words of Ebert, who, writing more than a century ago, spoke wisely on this very problem: "In making changes, either in part or the whole, let the librarian approach the work of earlier times not with complacency and unfavorable prejudices. Let him look carefully for good points and try to eliminate defects without changing the whole. But if a thoro reform is absolutely necessary, he ought to devise a detailed and well-thought-out plan according to which the work shall pro-

\* Works. *College and University Library Problems*. Chicago: American Library Association, 1927.

ceed, one class after the other, so that the departments not immediately affected can remain accessible. A library which has once been put in order ought not to remain inaccessible for a single day, even during the most thoro-going reorganization."

Most large libraries wisely avoid the issue of complete change from one system to another, for reasons of expense, lack of shelving space to make adjustments to two classifications, and effect on service efficiency. A compromise is usually arrived at, either in expansion and adaptation of the system already in use, or adoption of a new scheme for the parts of the collection in greatest need of revision. The decision to adopt a new system *in toto*, is usually found to be based on the fact that any satisfactory adjustment would involve reclassification of the entire library.

When the change is from broad classification to close, use may favor the retention of the broad in certain sections. In literature, for instance, it is often likely to be more convenient from the standpoint of use, if authors of the same language are arranged in one alphabet, rather than segregated into period divisions.

Once having fixed upon the extent of reclassification, as far as possible the new books of those classes, as they are added should be put into the new system, even tho the corresponding sections remain under the old number. This is economy in the end, and however slow the progress with reclassification may be, it is always some progress, since the new books will not have to be handled a second time. Local conditions will determine what sections, if any, shall continue to be classified under the old scheme. The problem of making a satisfactory shelving adjustment must be taken into account, since it is desirable to keep the new and old sections of main divisions near together.

Most libraries will find it impossible to do any extensive reclassification without additional staff, the number to be added depending on physical accommodations in working space, and whether policy demands large scale operations or not. At first it is less likely to cause serious inconvenience to users of the library, if the work proceeds rather slowly. Later, when processes are perfected, the staff may be augmented. The disposition of the staff will depend in a measure upon the general organization already in effect. While the new staff may be organized as a separate unit, the work should be under the general supervision of those in charge of the classification and cataloging of new books, in order that the two units may not work at cross purposes. In practice it has been found that a senior and junior assistant can work ef-

fectively together, dividing the duties between them in such a way as to cover all the processes of classification and cataloging. This results in a correlation necessary to prompt and efficient service. In a library where the cataloging routine is complex, it is highly desirable that one of the two be very familiar with the local cataloging practice. If a new system is being installed, specialists in it should at least inaugurate the work, thus establishing a precedent.

In considering specific methods and problems I have in mind the large university library, with several departmental collections, all of which have, or are to have, complete catalogs. The printed cards of the Library of Congress and the John Crerar Library, have been used when available, and if they are in good condition, will be used again after correction.

Where to direct the initial attack is the first question. The obvious answer is at the point where it is most needed. It may be wise, however, in view of the inconvenience and confusion incidental to the inauguration of such a change, to begin at a point which will least affect the general service, and there establish a method of procedure to be followed later. If the staff is largely unfamiliar with local cataloging problems, it is better to begin with a comparatively easy section, while routine details are being mastered. A departmental library may reasonably enough be selected for first attack, and completed as a unit. It is in the special collection too, where the shelves are being constantly used by students, that the inconvenience of having similar subjects in two separate places, is most keenly felt. The next point of attack may properly be the portion of the general stacks most in need of reorganization. The stack adjustment is more easily made if the work is concentrated on one section at a time. Here again, local conditions will determine the procedure. The first concern is to have the work well done, and it may be that the classifiers available present special qualifications which can best be utilized in separate sections.

Once committed to the policy of maintaining two sections in each subject group—one for old accessions not yet reclassified, and another for new books placed in the superseding scheme—the question comes up of what to do with added copies, new editions, translations and the like. It is highly desirable to have the volumes already in the library reclassified when the new ones are being put thru, since their separation into different classes would be extremely inconvenient. Furthermore, some of the cards would need to be removed from the catalog for addition notes and stamping, so it would be economy to change the numbers at the same time. At the



same time, decisions applicable to all can be made with regard to subject headings and classification numbers. It is apparent then that the problem of reclassification will not be entirely confined to the special staff, but will involve to a limited degree also those who have charge of the current accessions.

Any plan of procedure must be so formulated as to be applicable to all concerned in the actual work. At the University of Michigan the records which keep the service departments informed as to the location of books being reclassified, are as follows: When books are taken from the stacks, a slip to serve as a charge against the classification department, is sent to the circulation desk; a duplicate of this with the new number added and the date of change supersedes it when the book has gone to the stacks under the new number. This duplicate accompanies the book to the labeller and is not sent on until the book is relabelled. Both these records are kept at the circulation desk and are used in the same way as any charging record for books not found under the number called for. When the book is from a departmental library, these two records are naturally sent to that library. This check is necessary because there may be some delay in changing the records in the catalogs, and the reader may call for a book under the old number when it has been shelved under the new. The only cards which are removed with the books are the shelf card and the official author card. After the work of classification and revision of cataloging has been done, the complete set or sets of cards are removed and the numbers changed at one time. When cards are taken from the public catalog, a "dummy" with the new number replaces the author card. This is necessary to tide over the period of waiting for cards which have been ordered, or for cards to be printed.

Reclassification usually proves to mean much more than merely changing numbers on books and cards. Most libraries which are going thru the process do not have uniform or complete records and this is an opportunity to make them so. Much of the early cataloging may have been imperfectly done and correction of it will require as much time and thought as original work. It will mean searching for and ordering printed cards, if such are to be had, and if not, the preparation of new ones for the printer or multigrapher. Associated with it is an unusual amount of routine work, much of a clerical nature, but requiring vigilant supervision. There is more detail to be mastered than in new work, because it involves all the regular processes as well as those peculiar to reclassification. The erasing of call numbers particularly is a slow and tedious process if done by hand

power. This has been alleviated in some measure at the University of Michigan by an electrical eraser, devised from a dentist's drill, which has proven both efficient and effective in disposing of a large volume of work of this sort.

There is more ultimate good to be derived from the upheaval of reclassification than would appear on the surface. Indeed, the expense and inconvenience occasioned by such an undertaking is justified to a certain degree in the by-products. Probably the most important of these is a more uniform and effective catalog system. Additional needed records can be instituted, i. e. an official catalog, a union shelf catalog, a generous addition of added shelf cards, complete catalogs for departmental libraries. It brings the old and imperfect cataloging into conformity with the latest practice; it makes possible a selective scheme of subject headings in large groups, and the addition of sub-headings where necessary; new cards may be substituted for others which are worn, faded or badly soiled.

The inventory aspect of the process is of some significance, particularly in the library which does not maintain systematic inventories. Books missing at the time of reclassification are so recorded, and if not found after a definite interval, are considered lost, and the public records for them removed. Rare books are discovered and taken out for special treatment, perhaps removed from general circulation. Additional copies of titles once acquired to meet a special need, but no longer in demand, may be withdrawn to give place in the stacks to more valuable material. Needed binding is checked upon, and books and pamphlets in paper covers meriting permanent preservation, are sent to the bindery. It furnishes an opportunity to check on incomplete series and to compile want lists for them.

From the standpoint of consistency in classification, and economy in the utilization of information bearing on it, reclassification presents almost an ideal situation, in that an entire subject can be treated as a unit at one time. It becomes possible to secure a classifier who has specialized in the field, or who has special language equipment needed. Even lacking knowledge of the subject, the classifier can develop it to a certain degree during the progress of the work; by becoming familiar with the auxiliary aids, such as histories of the subject, bibliographies, catalogs of special libraries, and the like. Decisions once made are carried thru with the greatest degree of economy because they recur and become fixed, and the finer distinctions can be kept fresh in mind without retracing steps already taken to arrive at them. By the time an entire class has been completed,



a very definite scheme of preferences and interpretations can have been outlined, and a precedent laid down for future work.

A few precautions wisely observed in the beginning may prevent complications later on. While in general it is well to bring together old and new material which is used together, exception may be made if the reclassification necessary to effect this would seriously retard the current work. Similarly, with added copies. To cite an extreme example, if a departmental library acquires a set of the Smithsonian Institute's *Annual Report*, which has been fully analyzed in the general catalog, it need not require the reclassification of the first set. In general, caution needs to be practiced in all reclassification of analyzed series. The assigning of the number is a comparatively simple process, but it may involve, as in the above series, as many as 20,000 cards to be removed from catalogs, changed, revised, and filed back again. Such sets are better left under the old number until sufficient clerical force can be concentrated on them to change the cards with the least possible delay.

From the first, definite decisions should be

made with regard to any policy contrary to the practice of the scheme adopted. For example, whether individual biography shall be classed together or with the subject; whether subject bibliography shall be classed in bibliography or with the subject. It should be possible to make variations to suit local needs, but it should be done with extreme caution. Too many changes defeat the purpose of a scheme which has the advantage of being revised from time to time to meet new needs.

While service efficiency must be kept constantly in mind, in seeking to have cards follow books with the least possible delay, another aspect must not be overlooked. If work is worth doing over, it is worth doing so well that it can stand as a satisfactory record for the future. Mere speed should not sacrifice accuracy and bibliographical completeness. It should be possible to hold books about which there is some doubt as to the best classification, until further work clarifies their relation to each other and to the whole group. A slight delay between classification and cataloging may be desirable, as books appearing later may influence, or change a decision already made.

## PAN AMERICAN BIBLIOGRAPHICAL CO-OPERATION

THE FOLLOWING resolutions on bibliographical co-operation were adopted by the Governing Board of the Pan American Union, May 2:

1. The Special Committee appointed by the Governing Board shall continue as a Permanent Committee entrusted with carrying out the plan of organization of co-operation in bibliographical matters, which is recommended in the present report.

2. The Permanent Committee shall request the Governments of the States, members of the Pan American Union, thru their respective representatives on the Governing Board, to appoint a Technical Co-operating Committee in each of the countries, to be composed of outstanding bibliographers, including the Director of the National Library and the Director of the National Archives.

3. The Technical Co-operating Committees shall be asked to prepare a survey of the bibliographical situation in each country. This survey shall include all work done in bibliographical matters up to the present. Altho this survey is to be a kind of inventory of the existing sources of bibliography in each country, it may also include suggestions with respect to what is to be done in the future. The Director General of the Pan American Union shall be authorized to keep in constant communication with the Technical Co-operating Committees.

4. The Director General of the Pan American Union is authorized to consult with technical experts in bibliographical work and ask their advice on the preparation of a memorandum pointing out the subjects to be covered by the survey of national bibliographical situations in the countries of America which is to be requested from the national Committees.

5. The Director General is authorized to take all the necessary steps for the preparation of the meeting of the Inter-American Commission of Expert Bibliographers. The first step will be the drafting of the agenda, which will be done with the advice of the technical-experts referred to in paragraph four, and with the collaboration of the Technical Co-operating Committees which will be invited to make suggestions. When the agenda of the meeting of the Commission has been approved by the Governing Board of the Pan American Union, the Governing Board will fix the place and the time for the meeting.

## THE CALENDAR

Aug. 30-Sept. In Vancouver, B. C. Pacific Northwest Library Association. Edgar S. Robinson, librarian of the Vancouver Public Library is local chairman.

Sept. 4-9. At Richfield Springs. Annual meeting of the New York Library Association.

Nov. 7-10. At Biloxi, Miss. Biennial meeting of the Southeastern Library Association.

# PREPARING FOR RESEARCH IN A LAND GRANT COLLEGE LIBRARY

BY JAMES A. McMILLEN

*Librarian, Louisiana State University*

THIS paper is not written from the standpoint of the few large institutions which have great libraries and which have become known for their facilities for graduate study as well as for the scholars they have produced. Rather is it a study of the problem of the smaller institution located in states where education has but recently received the financial support commensurate with its great tasks.

A glance at the location of our land grant institutions shows that in eighteen states the agricultural college is located elsewhere than at the state university or state college. This means that in just so many states is there a division of state funds devoted to higher education among two or more institutions of higher rank. Consequently, one cannot expect to find huge or even large libraries developed under such financial limitations. The states but recently developed have not yet had sufficient time except to lay foundations for future growth, and even some of the older states have but recently established their agricultural colleges. An example of the latter is the University of Florida which was founded in 1907.

Economic conditions, especially in the South where recovery from the effects of the Civil War was extremely slow, caused public appropriations for higher education to be extremely small until the present century. Only within the last decade can it be said that there has been popular appreciation of the value or even of the necessity of higher education, and this appreciation, accompanied by better economic conditions, has expressed itself in the way of mill taxes and bond issues for building purposes.

The libraries of six of our land grant colleges are very well equipped, and for many years we have looked to Cornell, Ohio State, Wisconsin, Illinois, California and Minnesota as centers for agricultural research as well as for graduate study in many other lines. Others such as Nebraska, Missouri, and Iowa State College are now experiencing great growth and development and have begun to be centers for higher study, especially in the field of agriculture.

When one realizes that there are but six libraries possessing over three hundred thousand volumes and that only eighteen can lay claim to libraries of over one hundred thousand volumes, one gets some idea of the difficulties of

the research worker in most of the land grant colleges. Libraries, so long neglected by reason of financial limitations as well as thru failure to realize the absolute necessity of scientific literature for the successful prosecution of research, are now beginning to receive more adequate attention. This is especially true in the South where appropriations for books show decided increases in the last two years. In some cases appropriations have been doubled within the last academic year.

Such evidences of interest in the development of book collections lead us to inquire into the problem of future growth. Almost all of these institutions have been expanded to meet the greater demand on the part of America's youth for education, and this expansion of a material sort has caused the erection of elaborate buildings—class rooms, laboratories, stadiums and libraries. The laboratories are equipped with the most modern devices and, likewise, the library buildings are being built with a view to the development in these institutions of a book collection that will be a powerful aid to the study and research for which the laboratories have been built and equipped.

A library that has been neglected so long that it has become almost a hindrance rather than a help is not unknown to many of us. Too often it has accumulated thru the years and bears evidence of too great dependence upon two sources—government documents and gifts. While documents may be termed indispensable and gifts are always welcome, any library which depends largely upon them is developing according to no set policy and in a most haphazard fashion. It is as impossible to keep a good library without adequate financial support as it is to retain a good faculty on a poor salary scale.

When, in addition to providing for present needs and future use, the library must make up for the neglect of the past, then the problem becomes so complicated and costly that it can only be solved by "deficiency" appropriations both for books and for the trained people needed to organize them for modern university use.

This neglect in the past, due to lack of funds and a want of full realization of just what should be done, resulted in the accumulation of

unused and unusable material and unnecessary duplication of both. The elimination of duplicates and the discarding of material not suited to the character of the collection to be made is therefore the first step. Because one set of the *War of the Rebellion Records* is valuable for historical research there is no reason why the library should list and shelve every set that is given by well meaning relatives of deceased members of the Grand Army of the Republic or the United Confederate Veterans. I mention this set because I have met it in force in every library with which I have been associated. Such sets will occur to all of you.

The next problem that confronts the organizer of such neglected libraries is that of binding and the filling in of broken sets of periodicals. If journals are not bound with reasonable promptness and are permitted to be used there is invariably a loss resulting and often the number lost proves to be irreplaceable. Often the entire volume or an entire run of volumes must be purchased later to make up for the loss of one number whose original cost did not exceed fifty cents, and an altogether disproportionate amount of present funds must go to finance these purchases. As the sciences depend chiefly upon their journals for a record of past researches it is necessary that files be available so that the scientist may inform himself of what has already been done. This serves then as a basis for future investigations for to repeat at great expense of time and labor what has already been done and recorded is no less than a crime. The library will try to have available this necessary literature, or, if it is extremely rare and practically unobtainable, to be able to inform the scientist where he may borrow the volume wanted. Likewise, all sets should be bound to date and future volumes sent to the bindery soon after they are completed. Faculty as well as librarians are now convinced of the necessity of this policy, for journals are too expensive to be lost thru failure to bind. It is better to subscribe to fewer journals than to take many and bind but a few.

It might be argued that the program outlined is impossible of achievement at many places because of a lack of funds. I agree that it cannot be done at once, but I restate the necessity for its being done if the library is to fill the place it ought to occupy. A stated sum should be set aside each year for the purpose of filling in such gaps in periodical sets and this should be in addition to the sum appropriated for the "increase of the library." This additional sum could also be used in the acquisition of such sets as may be acquired to increase the supply of research material.

Before the library can venture on any extensive program of purchase it must be supplied with the indispensable bibliographic tools. Purchases should be made so as to equip the library for research in certain restricted fields recognized as the special subjects of the university's interest. In Louisiana, for instance, where our Audubon Sugar School is unique we have reason for trying to acquire the rather extensive literature on sugar cane, sugar beets, and their manufacture into the sugar of commerce. But I see no reason why the University of Maine, for instance, should choose to collect in this same field. Similarly, we could well specialize on rice, cotton, pecans, and other Louisiana crops. No library, even in agriculture, with the one possible exception of the Library of the United States Department of Agriculture, can acquire much other than the chief journals bearing on the subsidiary sciences and the specialized journals necessary for the proper conduct of researches by its own staff. Specialization is as much of a necessity with institutions as with men. Each library should try to be fairly complete in the few specialties emphasized by the institution. This, of course, also implies the collection of material touching on the history of its own state.

A realization of the needs and requirements must precede the adoption of a policy and program of growth and development. This conception of what should be done must be so clear to the librarian that the faculty and president, and thru them the board of control, can be won over to the adoption of a program necessary to make it real. In presenting such a plan for development any librarian must realize that to double or treble the funds for book purchase must entail necessary additions to sums set aside for salaries of the trained staff, whose business it is to organize and to make available to the users of the library this mass of material. A building suited to its proper storage and many varieties of uses is also an item that should not be overlooked, but the necessity of this is more easily demonstrated than either of the two other factors.

The problem then is based on the clear conception on the part of the librarian of what should be done, but is, after all, chiefly that of convincing the money-granting authorities of the particular institution that the program outlined is essential to the conduct of a research institution. Only when the necessity is fully demonstrated will the library be granted the extra funds needed to equip it for research. In fact, the library book appropriation is a fair index of the interest of a college or university in higher study and research.

## THE WEST BADEN CONFERENCE—II

### ADULT EDUCATION ROUND TABLE

THIS round table, held on May 30, was planned as an informal meeting. Chairman Matthew S. Dudgeon announced the following topics for discussion: The organization and administration of adult education services—co-ordination and specialization; readers' advisory service thru branch libraries; guidance and book service for employes of commercial and industrial organizations, and "Reading with a Purpose" series, critical comments after three years' experience.

Linda A. Eastman of Cleveland described the three types of service which the Cleveland Library is offering thru its Adult Education Department: the information service relative to opportunities for adult education in Cleveland, the service to groups, and the readers' advisory service. Two additional readers' advisers are to be added within the next year to the existing staff of two. The advisability of printing a list of educational opportunities and methods of financing the project were discussed. Miss Eastman said that because in Cleveland the library was centrally located, the printing of a list of educational opportunities was judged the proper function of the library. By means of this service the library has received the good will and friendship of many people. Purd B. Wright of Kansas City said that a similar list of educational opportunities in Kansas City had been published co-operatively by three agencies other than the library. Walter L. Brown of Buffalo mentioned the recommendation of the Buffalo Educational Council that the public library maintain a bureau of information concerning all educational opportunities in the city. Each agency is asked to send the necessary information to the library, "but in the end," said Mr. Brown, "it resolves itself into a task of considerable dimensions, because the information must be sought out by the library in the majority of cases." However, Mr. Brown stated that the library needs and uses this information constantly.

The next topic of discussion was the most advantageous location for the office of the readers' adviser. Alice Farquhar, readers' adviser of the Chicago Public Library, was emphatic in her belief that the desk of the readers' adviser should be in a secluded part of the library, not in the lobby, and that it should also be near the circulation department, the card catalog, and the book supply. Miss Eastman said that the readers' advisers in Cleveland had found that the readers were eager for the utmost privacy.

Margery Bedinger, head of the adult education department of the Seattle Public Library,

introduced the discussion of duplication of books for special collections of the readers' advisers. Miss Farquhar said that four or five copies of needed books had been purchased for the exclusive use of the readers' bureau when first established, but that this number was reduced later. Judson T. Jennings of Seattle said that it had been the practice of that library to set aside from two to five copies of books listed in the "Reading with a Purpose" series as a reserve.

Is it part of the readers' advisers' work to talk books and libraries to groups requesting this service, outside the library? In connection with this question, Adam Strohm, of Detroit, where for the past two years the public library has had as a member of its staff a man whose sole duty it has been to talk books and reading to individuals and to groups in and near the city, said that to his mind, the experiment was entirely worth while and the efforts of this outside work were far-reaching and inspirational. The results, in the short period of two years, had brought an intellectual dignity and self-respect to Detroit and to Michigan.

The discussion was continued from the point of view of the small town library. Constance Bement, director of the Extension Division, State Library of Michigan, spoke of the library survey which she is conducting in connection with the county surveys of adult education in Jackson and Barry counties. The survey represented an attempt to discover all sources of book supply in these two counties. It has revealed a great lack of book material. Frank L. Tolman, director of the Extension Division, New York State Library, presented a contrasting picture in his state. "There are," he said, "eleven million people in the state of New York and twenty-two million books."

Jane L. Burbank of Portland, Maine, brought to the attention of the group the problem of keeping adequate records of those who are following reading courses. She said she had been able to devise no means of determining whether or not the books which make up a course of reading are actually being read by those who undertake to follow a course.

Lillian C. Gates of Omaha reported that the practice of telephoning readers from two to four weeks after the first book had been withdrawn, had proved efficacious in following the progress of readers. Elizabeth Lathrop of Oshkosh said that tho no follow-up methods had been developed, yet the results of the reading courses were definitely reflected in the library. When "Reading with a Purpose" courses are



used as subjects for discussion or study groups, as described by Alice M. Sterling of New Castle, Pa., an accurate count can then be kept of those who read the books. Miss Farquhar explained the method of keeping a record of books borrowed and returned upon the original registration card of the reader.

The question of the reader's advisory service thru branch libraries was then discussed. Esther Johnston, librarian in charge of the Central Circulation Branch, New York Public Library, said that in her opinion it was better to have the reading course for an individual formed by the person who made the original contact, rather than by a readers' adviser outside the branch. In Indianapolis, however, it has been found satisfactory for the branch librarian to send all facts relevant to the reader to the adviser at the main library. The course is then made by her and returned to the branch librarian. Mr. Dudgeon, in summing up this discussion, suggested that the person who makes the contact should organize the course if she is sufficiently familiar with the resources of the library. If not, she should consult with the readers' adviser.

A discussion of guidance and book service for employes of commercial and industrial organizations revealed the fact that libraries everywhere are being called upon to render this service. Two large industries which operate on a nation-wide scale—the Western Electric, and the American Telephone and Telegraph Company—are making extensive use of the "Reading with a Purpose" courses as guides for the reading of employes. In Washington, D. C., the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company has asked for reading courses for their employes. In Kansas City, the library aids in the making of courses for the employes of the Public Utilities Corporation. Miss Farquhar of Chicago reported fifteen commercial and industrial agencies on her list which asked for aid in the formation of reading plans, and Miriam D. Tompkins, chief of the adult education service, Milwaukee, described the work of the readers' adviser with department store employes. The adviser interviews readers at the store during working hours, and the library delivers to the employes both the courses and the recommended books.

Plans for the "Reading with a Purpose" courses were discussed by L. L. Dickerson. In regard to the difficulty of the books recommended in the courses, Mr. Dickerson said that this matter was receiving the constant effort of both authors and publishers of the courses and that a continual search is being made for books that are accurate, interesting, and readily understood.

L. L. DICKERSON.

## THE LIBRARY JOURNAL AGRICULTURAL LIBRARIES SECTION

THE Agricultural Libraries Section met on May 30, at 8:30, Willard P. Lewis presiding.

Miss Lucy E. Fay, School of Library Service, Columbia University, gave a paper on instruction in agricultural college library work which will be printed later in the LIBRARY JOURNAL and James A. McMillen read a paper on preparing for research in the land grant college library which appears in the present number.

The land grant college survey, library section, was discussed by Charles H. Brown, Iowa State College Library. The report of the Committee on Future Activities of the Agricultural Libraries Section was accepted. The report of Mary G. Lacy, chairman, Committee on Co-operative Bibliographic Aid was read by the secretary.

Officers elected: Mary E. Baker, chairman and Mary G. Lacy, secretary.

CORA MILTIMORE, Secretary.

## AMERICAN LIBRARY INSTITUTE

PRESIDENT KOOPMAN introduced the open meeting of the Institute with a paper on "Reading, the Unsociable Art," which will be published later.

The President then read two brief papers by Mr. Gerould on library resources. The first concerned the unsatisfactory distribution of periodical holdings. The *Union List* has simplified our task but, as time goes on, we cannot be sure that a periodical not listed there is actually unavailable in the country; and keeping it up-to-date is an immediate problem. It does give us irrefutable evidence that "there are hosts of important serials, no copy of which is listed; that of many others, the only copies in this country are in Harvard, the New York Public Library, or the Library of Congress; that still others are only to be found in libraries on the Atlantic seaboard." Mr. Gerould gave a few specific titles as examples and summed up in percentages the results of checking with the *Union List* such bibliographies as Lanson's *Manuel Bibliographique de la Littérature Française*, and Dahlmann-Waitz' *Quellenkunde der Deutschen Geschichte*. Forty-six per cent of periodicals cited in Lanson and seventy per cent of those in Dahlmann-Waitz are either lacking or not represented by a sufficient number of copies to serve the scholar's needs. Approaching the problem from the point of view of availability of purchase, Mr. Gerould cited five recent booksellers' lists which offered respectively 38, 158, 75, and 41 titles needed in this country and could be bought at reasonably low prices (in one case at an average of \$66.40 per set, in another at an average of \$30.85). Mr. Gerould



has already supplied copies of the desiderata based on Lanson and Dahlmann-Waitz to twenty eastern libraries and suggested an apportionment of the lists among the institutions concerned, and the placing of orders, thru a committee, in the hands of a single dealer. He also expressed the hope that periodic supplements to the *Union List* be published. (See action taken at the meeting of the College and Reference Section.)

In the discussion, Mr. Bishop welcomed Mr. Gerould's concrete examples of a troublesome problem and told of his efforts to enlist co-operation in the acquisition of the publications of local societies, after the University of Michigan had undertaken to collect those of France. In spite of discouraging replies at first, there now seems to be good hope of co-operation by the University of Minnesota, University of Illinois, Ohio State University and the University of Chicago. Mr. Walter and Mr. Henry spoke in the same tenor.

Mr. Cannon outlined the proposal he was to recommend at the meeting of the Periodical Section: that periodicals be divided into three groups (1) those which all libraries might be expected to buy for themselves; (2) those of sufficient importance so that presumably several libraries would buy independently of any co-operative program; (3) those least frequently in demand. Group 3 should be bought by co-operation in such fashion that there should be at least one copy in certain geographical divisions.

Mr. W. M. Smith pointed out the difficulty of continuing a specialized line of purchases in view of the "floating" character of University faculties and the corresponding changes in their special demands on the library. Dr. Koopman suggested the likelihood that within the next generation the library resources will have a determinative influence on study and teaching in the University, and that elections to the faculty may be made with special reference to them. Dr. Shearer mentioned the policy of Hamilton College as a present example.

Mr. Gerould's second paper dealt with the difficulty of definition and description of "special collections." "in the hope that we may evolve a formula of description that will be simple enough to be applied by busy librarians and yet exact enough. . .," so that we may co-operate as efficiently as possible in the undertakings of Dr. Richardson and Dr. Johnston and of the *American Library Directory*. Among the specific problems presented were: the quantitative vs. the qualitative estimate as to the value of the collection; the rating of a collection which is very important in the library of which it forms a part but may not be important when

compared with the resources of some other library; the description of a special collection enhanced by the resources of the general library in the same subject or in broader and related subjects (e. g. a Rousseau collection in a library otherwise rich in the field of French literature, etc.); and the evaluation of a special collection once rich but now become less serviceable thru reduction of funds for continuous growth.

Dr. Johnston's abstract of his paper on "The Library of Congress Survey of Special Collections in American Libraries: Some Problems," will appear in a later number.

Dr. Putnam, called upon by the chair, expressed the opinion that little more could be said on the subject of special collections at this time, but took occasion to draw the parallel between Dr. Koopman's suggestion as to the future organization of university faculties with the organization now going on at the Library of Congress of "chairs" in various subjects.

Señor Mendez Rivas's paper on library resources in Mexico, mentioned several examples of early American-printed books and unique manuscript material available in Mexican libraries and presenting opportunities for work of bibliographer and editor. The great collection of Mexican periodicals in the National library should also be studied by our students. Mexican libraries have the source material of "about half of the history of New Mexico, California and Texas," as well as much other source material for early United States and American history. Notes regarding this material are published currently in the bulletin of the National Library, and there is a promising field for the translator of these articles and of Mexican books on the subject. There should be a descriptive catalog of documents in Mexican libraries regarding United States history. Americans are active in the study of Mexican archaeology, but in other fields—such as land law, mining law, Spanish colonial architecture, music, etc.—the influence of Mexico has, as yet, been only partially appreciated and studied by American students. Even the famous "Mexican Codices" have not been exhausted. In the way of co-operation and mutual understanding Sr. Mendez Rivas further suggested the reprinting of important Mexican books; the lending of books and exhibits about Mexico to North American libraries and vice versa; international conferences, unification of cataloging rules; and translations of important new books as they appear.

Mr. Walter's paper on safeguarding rare and expensive books will be printed in a later number.

Mr. Walter added, in replying to a question by Miss Rathbone, that libraries now generally

discriminate in their handling of rare books by the omission of labels, stamps, etc. Questioned by Mr. Ranck as to treatment of books which have appreciated in value, he spoke of the purchase and setting aside of extra copies of first editions, definitive editions, etc., and of the removal from the open stack of books which members of the staff or faculty know to have become rare.

Mr. Smith spoke of the difficulty of educating the faculty up to the dangers of free use of all books by the undergraduates.

Dr. Shearer mentioned \$25 value as an approximate criterion for removing a book from the open stack, in the Newberry and Grosvenor libraries, altho, since the war the limit has been raised somewhat. Increased values are noted in the reading of booksellers' catalogs.

Mr. Bishop said that, from the point of view of providing books for research, we have too much ignored our responsibility for the preservation of material which has, for any reason, become rare; that locked cases and similar devices are only makeshifts; and that the problem can hardly be solved without special rooms and special staff. He mentioned, as a recent example, the Kelly collection on Fungi, for which the Trustees of the University of Michigan had provided special quarters.

A meeting of the Executive Board was called Tuesday afternoon, but as there was not a quorum, no business was transacted except that, subject to confirmation by the other members of the Board, the acting secretary be asked to serve out the term for which Dr. Shearer had been elected.

*Abridged from the report of*

HENRY B. VAN HOESEN, *Secretary.*

## ART REFERENCE ROUND TABLE

THE ART REFERENCE Round Table celebrated its fifth birthday at the West Baden conference Friday morning, June first. Gladys Caldwell of Los Angeles presided as chairman, and Gretta Smith of Indianapolis served as secretary.

Three interesting papers were read, representing three varied phases of art reference work, and coming from three widely separated parts of the country.

Mrs. Wells Smith, trustee of the Los Angeles Public Library read the paper by Milton J. Ferguson, California state librarian, entitled "Moving Pictures." Disclaiming any connection with the silver screen, Mr. Ferguson described the vital work in art appreciation being carried on in the rural districts of California, for the most part by the county librarians. In Lassen County, 200 miles from Sacramento, beyond the mountains, certain groups are in their fifth year of art study, under the leadership of

the county librarian. Mr. Ferguson closed with a description of the valuable print collection he has acquired for the State Library, now adequately housed in the beautiful new State Library building.

Antoinette Douglas, head of the Art and music department of the St. Louis Public Library, in her paper, "Their Money's Worth—Books for the Commercial Artist," described and evaluated groups of books of interest to freelance commercial artists, newspaper illustrators, costume designers, art glass workers, window trimmers and furniture makers. Dividing the books into groups of general interest, costume design and decoration, Miss Douglas clearly described wherein lay the value of each.

George Appel's paper was on the work of the music section of the Boston Public Library, of which Mr. Appel is custodian. He sketched the development of this department from the beginnings in 1859 when Alexander Wheelock Thayer, author of the great Beethoven biography, bought a valuable collection of works on the theory of music and music of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, down to the many interesting activities of the last season. Lectures given in connection with the Boston symphony concerts are now an established feature of the year's work. The series of chamber music concerts, given under the auspices of Mrs. Elizabeth Sprague Coolidge, is another recent development of great interest.

A costume index committee was formed with Antoinette Douglas as chairman, to consult with the Wilson Company on the advisability of compiling such an index. A letter was read from Julius Mattfeld, librarian of the National Broadcasting Library, accepting the chairmanship of the music committee, and listing various suggestions for needed lists. The work of compiling an index to art periodicals was reported at a standstill, pending action on the part of the committee of museum directors.

Gladys Caldwell of Los Angeles was reappointed chairman and Elizabeth K. Steele of Detroit was appointed secretary.

## BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

THE meeting of the Bibliographical Society of America was held Friday morning, June 1st. The reading of the minutes was dispensed with because the program was so full. The report of the secretary, Dr. Shearer, however, showed a remarkable increase in membership, there being now a little over 350 on the roll. The report of the chairman of the committee on publications, Mr. Childs, disclosed the fact that it was impossible to adhere to the original plan of

making the 1926 papers a handbook to the bibliography of the United States, because the members have been so slow in handing in their revised papers. For the same reason it has been necessary to defer the publication of the companion volume, the handbook on the bibliography of Canada. The committee therefore has brought together a part of the miscellaneous papers of the society to constitute the Papers for the year 1926. The chairman of the committee reported this to be so far advanced that it will be ready for distribution shortly. It was hoped to have an advanced copy of this at the meeting but this could not be accomplished.

Concerning the new edition of the British Museum *Catalogue of Printed Books*, the president stated that as soon as it became evident that no serious effort on the part of London publishers to issue a new edition of the British Museum *Catalogue* was under way, a letter was sent to Sir Frederick Kenyon, the director of the British Museum. This letter asked for a tentative estimate of the probable cost and the length of time needed to compile and publish the *Catalogue*, together with such other details as would naturally arise in a preliminary discussion, incidental to any efforts to secure a grant of money from some American foundation to carry on this most important bibliographical work.

The place of honor on the program was given to a tribute by William W. Bishop to Professor Azariah S. Root, a former president of the society who passed away last fall. It is a satisfaction to know that this tribute to one of the most esteemed members of the society will be printed in the papers of the society, accompanied by a bibliography of Professor Root's writings. A number of copies will also be issued separately and one copy is to be bound suitably for presentation to Mrs. Root.

The fact that the Bibliographical Society of America is taking its part in the promotion of intellectual co-operation among all the countries of both North and South America was disclosed by the very valuable paper on "Bibliographical Co-operation between the United States and Mexico" by Señor Rafael Heliodoro Valle of the Library Department, Ministry of Education, Mexico City. This whole matter was ably introduced by a few words from Charles E. Babcock, the librarian of the Pan-American Union, Washington. Mr. Babcock, after reviewing briefly former efforts, summarized the action of the sixth international conference of American states at Havana and the resolution on bibliographical co-operation which grew out of it adopted by the governing board of the Pan American Union, May 2, 1928. Mr. Babcock's remarks will be published in full, together with the text of the resolutions, in the *Proceedings*.

The next paper was a character sketch of William Beer, librarian of the Howard Memorial Library in New Orleans and long a member of the Bibliographical Society of America. The sketch was written by Mr. Edward L. Tinker of New York, a personal friend. It would have been a great satisfaction to Mr. Beer to know that a sketch that reflected his highly individual and whimsical humor was to be read before the society. The paper when printed will be accompanied by a complete bibliography of Mr. Beer's writings.

The paper on Confederate Imprints in the Huntington Library was read by title only. It will appear in full in the *Proceedings*.

The next paper on the program was a contribution by that skilled bibliographer, the newly appointed librarian of the John Crerar Library in Chicago. It was entitled "Bibliotheca Thordarsoniana—A Private Collection of Scientific and Technological Literature, Briefly Described by J. Christian Bay." The paper was characterized by Mr. Bay's well known scientific accuracy in bibliographical description combined with that lightness of touch which makes a subject of limited appeal interesting to even the casual reader. When printed in the *Proceedings* this paper will be profusely illustrated with reproductions of title pages and bindings of some of the rarer items in the collection.

Mr. Thordarson has reprinted one of the unique gems of his collection *God Speede the Plough*, London, 1601, for distribution to the members. Unfortunately it was not quite ready and was shown only in page proof. As soon as it is available copies will be sent out by the secretary.

The last paper on the program was by Mr. John D. Wolcott, the librarian of the U. S. Bureau of Education, entitled "Characterization of Some Early Textbooks in American History." Dr. Wolcott's paper was lightened by numerous touches of humor drawn from the volumes under discussion.

The brief summary of his report by the treasurer, Mr. Faxon, showed that with careful economy, the society will be able to carry on its undertakings, all too limited.

Mention was also made of a special gift of one hundred dollars from Dr. Lucius L. Hubbard of Houghton, Michigan, to aid in publication.

Owing to the lateness of the hour, the discussion of the revised constitution was not taken up and this will become the first order of the day at the next meeting. By unanimous consent it was agreed to suspend the old constitution and to operate under the proposed new constitution until the next meeting at the end of

this year, in a sort of companionate marriage, as it were.

The report of the nominating committee resulted in the election of the following officers: President, H. H. B. Meyer; first vice-president, H. M. Lydenberg; second vice-president, J. C. M. Hanson; secretary, A. H. Shearer; treasurer, F. W. Faxon; librarian, C. C. Williamson; councillor to replace Mr. Hanson, John Vance.

H. H. B. MEYER, *President*.

## CATALOG SECTION

THREE meetings were held by the Catalog Section, the general session, the round table for small libraries and the round table on classification for large libraries.

The chairman, Minnie E. Sears of the H. W. Wilson Company and Columbia University, presided. Two subjects of international interest were presented. Charles C. Williamson, Columbia University Libraries, read a paper: "Can the Printed Catalog of the Bibliothèque Nationale be Completed in Ten Years?", which is printed in abridgement elsewhere in this issue.

William Warner Bishop gave an informal talk on plans for cataloging the Vatican Library. The speaker has had the interesting experience of being closely in touch with this undertaking from its inception and told of the work made possible by the Carnegie Foundation.

All who have worked with the publications of the League of Nations will be interested in the following statement which was presented at the meeting.

It is an indispensable convenience for the diplomatic official, or private investigator, who has occasion to make use of the larger libraries the world over, to find in each library a complete file of the publications of the League of Nations, and it adds vastly to this convenience if these complete files are placed on the shelves in an orderly arrangement, always the same in the different libraries, thus facilitating consultation and contributing to a uniform system of references by which specific documents may be indicated in footnotes, bibliographies, and indexes. Each piece cannot be separately bound and composite volumes will be necessary.

It is therefore highly important that an official arrangement should at once be established by the League, covering every document which has been printed under its auspices up to the present time, and that sets of title-pages and contents-sheets be compiled and printed which will enable libraries and archives to collate their sets and bind them in volumes which accord with this standard and official arrangement. It is fully as important that, hereafter, promptly at the end of each year, title-pages and contents-sheets be issued, covering the year's product.

There is no question that this plan will facilitate and promote the use of the documents and save thousands of dollars to libraries taken collectively.

In view of the above considerations, it was moved and carried that the Catalog Section request the Council of the American Library Association to make urgent representations to the proper authorities of the League

of Nations to establish an official and permanent order of arrangement of the documents already issued, to print title-pages and contents-sheets to facilitate binding them in composite volumes according to this official arrangement, and in the future at the end of each year to issue title-pages and contents-sheets for the year's product.

The Committee on Co-operative Cataloging rendered its report (See page 592).

The Committee on the formation of regional groups reported the Ontario Regional Group organized in June 1927 and the possibilities in the near future of the formation of a group for Western Canada. There are now sixteen groups of catalogers functioning actively in the United States and Canada. Judging from the trend of events during the past year, the committee feels that its work for the future will consist largely of fostering these groups which have already been established.

Polly Fenton, New Jersey College for Women, New Brunswick, presided at the round table for catalogers in small libraries. The following subjects were presented: "Cataloging Simplified thru Dropping the 'Exceptions to the Rule'", by Susan G. Akers, Wisconsin Free Library Commission, Madison; "The Use of Library of Congress Cards by Small Libraries," by Hazel B. Warren, Extension Division, Indiana State Library, Indianapolis; "Guideposts Along the Catalog Way," by Lillian M. Guinn, Bradley Polytechnic Institute, Peoria, Illinois; and "In Touch with Washington," by Marie T. Brown, Carnegie Public Library, Conneaut, Ohio.

Grace O. Kelley of the John Crerar Library presided at the round table on classification for large libraries. As many libraries are either contemplating or are in the midst of reclassification and reorganization, it was interesting to hear the matter presented in "The Problems and Technique of Reclassification," by Rudolph Gjelsness, General Library, University of Michigan. Louise Keller, Independence Bureau Library, Philadelphia, furnished a paper on the work of the Classifications Committee of the Special Libraries Association. Aided by the collection of material on library methods, including various systems of classifications, the committee is enabled to give advice to many inquirers as to classification and cataloging methods best suited to special libraries. Its work is pre-eminently that of a clearing house, not only for special librarians, but for all who need the service they are able to provide.

A talk on the classed catalog as a tool for research by Elwood H. McClelland of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh gave his experience in the use of the classed catalog in the technology department, there. This form of catalog, tho not the most popular, is the one which the scientist generally finds preferable for research



as its arrangement corresponds more closely to his methods of arranging material.

A paper on the equipment and qualifications of a classifier, was read by Harriet Penfield of the John Crerar Library and will be printed in full later.

The following statement by W. S. Merrill of the Newberry Library, Chicago, will answer many queries in regard to the new code for classifiers.

The tentative collection of data for a *Code for Classifiers*, issued in a mimeographed edition of only two hundred copies for free distribution in May 1914, is about to give place to a new work based upon the old one, but entirely rearranged and much enlarged. It will embody, moreover, all the decisions and suggestions communicated to the author, as well as many rules supplied by libraries which have compiled their rulings upon doubtful points of classification. Credit is given in the text for all such official rulings and for the many personal suggestions made to the author.

The new work, which will be printed, if present expectations are realized, is arranged in classified form and follows the sequence of divisions in the Decimal Classification. It may, however, be used in connection with any system of classification because it is concerned, not with questions about the right sequence or arrangement of subjects, but with principles by which consistency may be maintained by the classifier in placing books in a system of classification. An alphabetical index will afford easy reference to any desired topic or ruling.

The following officers were elected for the coming year: Chairman, Helen K. Starr, head cataloger, James J. Hill Reference Library, St. Paul, Minn.; secretary-treasurer, Grace O. Kelley, supervisor of cataloging and classification, John Crerar Library, Chicago.

ELIZA LAMB, *Secretary*.

## COLLEGE AND REFERENCE SECTION

THIS meeting, held May 29 and June 1, attracted an attendance of about four hundred people, the largest number ever gathered together under the auspices of the College and Reference Section. Most of the papers presented were reports of the chairmen of committees who had been working on certain definitely stated problems. This departure from the usual procedure seemed to be well received for the reports showed evidence of much study and caused much discussion.

Edward C. Williams, librarian of Howard University Library, Washington, D. C., gave an interesting account of the libraries in schools

and colleges for negroes. The best developed libraries are those of Howard University and Hampton Institute. Fisk University was mentioned, also, as a place where the Library problem is being given some attention and where great progress might be expected in the near future. Of the secondary schools the Kansas City high school for colored people was commended both for its good collection and excellent service.

Some studies are now under way which may lead to an adequate solution of the problem presented by the existence in Atlanta of five institutions of higher learning for negroes. It is likely that some method of co-operation will be found so that the libraries of these colleges will be co-ordinated and each institution be able to have the use of the combined resources of all.

The policy now being followed at Howard is a very progressive one. There is a separate library building, altho it still gives space to some non-library activities and is now much overcrowded. Useless duplicates and unusable books have been discarded. There is a well-equipped library in the Medical School and the Law School has a collection of over eleven thousand volumes. At Howard the staff is in the main home-trained, while at Hampton, where there is a library school, the staff is on more of a professional basis. At Fisk there is now a good beginning with a well selected collection of new books numbering six thousand. The greatest need now is for trained librarians, and next in order is the necessity for more suitable buildings. Altho it is difficult to convince the presidents of the negro universities of the necessity for trained help, the evolution in educational thought is all in the direction of better library service.

Charles B. Shaw, librarian of Swarthmore College, read the report of the special committee appointed to consider the matter of editing a college, university and reference library yearbook. Since the proposal for this publication was made at the last midwinter meeting there has been published a plan of a special journal of discussion in the library field, and the committee took into consideration this possible new outlet for papers on library matters and how it would change, if any, the scope of the proposed annual. Items recommended as proper subject matter for the yearbook are: (1) General problems of education, especially higher education; (2) An annual summary of the work of the College and Reference Section; (3) A compilation of college and university library news; (4) Important papers presented at the various meetings, both national and sectional; (5) A record of important gifts; (6) Surveys of individual institutions; (7) Statements of various institu-

tions' fields of interest and special collections or holdings; (8) Brief comment on new departures in college and university library work or equipment.

After the publication of the first yearbook the committee believes some single feature should be emphasized in future issues. As to statistical matter to be included, the committee believed that there should first come some change to make the statistics more understandable and more uniform. For that reason, the report of the committee on new forms for college statistics and definitions was considered as a necessary preliminary to any definite decision on the matter.

As to whether there should be a bibliography of articles or a list of abstracts of valuable publications in this special field the committee could not reach a definite decision.

Likewise the inclusion of a directory and the nature of such a directory if included, could not be agreed upon and must be left undecided for the present. The committee agreed that it seemed unwise and unnecessary to publish reprints of earlier standard articles as well as material submitted from library schools.

The report of the committee was accepted, and it was also voted to accept the offer of the Secretary of the A. L. A. to publish such a yearbook if the section would edit it. It was believed that the publication of the first yearbook would indicate whether there is a valuable function performed by it, and the continuance of the publication should depend on the success of the first issue. Possible conflict with the proposed journal of discussion can be lessened by conference between the two committees concerned. It was voted that the committee continue to work on this project and that the proposed publication be known as the *College and Reference Library Yearbook*. The matter of inclusion of a directory was referred back to the committee.

The matter of the continuation of the *Union List of Serials* was brought up by Keyes D. Metcalf of the New York Public Library. It was believed that some provision should be made for the publication of a supplement and the furtherance of an exchange of partial sets, which interchange had not come up to the expectations of the original committee. H. W. Wilson said that the sale of the *Union List* had been quite good and that there was already on hand a balance of several thousand dollars for any future undertaking agreed upon by the guarantors of the list. He also proposed that editorial headquarters be given the task of arranging exchanges of sets in case a supplement should be attempted. It was voted that "the Section deems it desirable that the exchange of

odd sets be arranged and that the publication of a supplement to the *Union List of Serials* be issued," and that "the Executive Board be requested to continue instead of discharging the Union List of Serials Committee and ask them to suggest at the coming midwinter meeting a plan for a supplement to the Union List."

The Secretary-Treasurer spoke of some proposed changes in the management of the section. An enlarged membership and more regular payment of dues on the part of those already enrolled were mentioned as desirable. In order to foster greater interest and put the midwinter meetings of the college and university librarians on a more unified basis he suggested a change in the By-Laws so as to have the Section hold at least one session at the midwinter meetings, such meeting to be the one now held as a joint session between the college and university librarians' groups. In the discussion it was pointed out that the meetings at Chicago were on a purely voluntary basis and that no change could well be made without first bringing the matter before the respective groups concerned.

The report of the committee on definition of "Professional Assistant" was read and elicited much comment. The committee recommended "that the title 'Professional Assistant' may be used to designate those members of the staff of a college and university library who have: (1) a bachelor's degree, with one year of professional education; or, (2) a bachelor's degree with not less than three years' experience in a scholarly library of fifty thousand volumes or more; or, (3) an informal education considered by the librarian as the real equivalent of four years of college work plus five years' experience in a scholarly library of fifty thousand volumes or more. This provision is to take care of those already in the profession. Later additions to the professional group should meet requirements number (1) or (2)." A note was added: "It is assumed in all cases that the work the professional assistant is performing requires a general and professional education."

The report was accepted and placed on file, and the committee continued.

The report of the committee on "New Forms for College Statistics and Definitions" was available in multigraphed form and was presented by the chairman, J. S. Fowler of the University of Cincinnati Library. The part of the report that seemed to arouse some opposition provided that no distinction be made between pamphlets and books. It was suggested also that it would be difficult to find uniform practices in the matter of reporting costs for books, periodicals and binding. In many institutions the sum spent on the increase of the library was reported in one account and in many cases it would be unwise

to have definite allotments in case of each of the three categories named. The report was referred back to the Committee with the request that the proposed form be tried on some thirty libraries in order to determine how it works.

A communication from Minnie E. Sears, chairman of the Catalog Section, referred to the section a matter which is of interest to our group, namely, the determination of a definite method of arrangement of the publications of the League of Nations. (See p. 608). It was voted that the College and Reference Section request the Council of the A. L. A. to make urgent representations to the proper authorities of the League of Nations to establish an official and permanent order of arrangement of the documents already issued, etc.

The second session was presided over by John T. Vance of the Library of Congress and was the occasion of the appearance of our Mexican colleagues, Señor Rafael Aguilar y Santillan, perpetual secretary of the Sociedad Científica "Antonio Alzate," and Señor Tobias Chavez, director of the University of Mexico Libraries. The former, referred to by the Chairman as the "Dean of Mexican Librarians," spoke briefly in Spanish and referred to the mimeographed copy of the English translation of his paper which had been distributed to those present. This paper gave a brief but rather comprehensive review of the scientific production as shown in Mexican books and scientific journals.

Señor Chavez' paper, likewise distributed in translation, described the libraries of the University of Mexico. The use of the library, the budgets, and the departments represented by separate collections and libraries were fully explained, thus displaying the work of the chief Mexican library serving an educational institution.

Señorita Esperanza Velasquez Bringas, head of library department, Ministry of Education of Mexico, delivered a message of co-operation and good will between the United States and Mexico.

The chairman of the Section for the coming year is Martin A. Roberts of the Library of Congress.

JAMES A. McMILLEN, *Secretary-Treasurer*.

## HOSPITAL LIBRARIES ROUND TABLE

FEWER than usual met for the Hospital Libraries Round Table on that last sultry afternoon of convention, Friday, June 2. However, there was no lack of spirit and frank discussion both of scheduled and unscheduled topics.

One regrets so often that some of the papers

given in smaller groups cannot be heard by more people, since they are so full of pith and marrow. Take for instance Isabel Baylis' summary of the work carried on by a committee of McGill University alumnae in the Montreal hospitals or the very adequate and modest presentation by Mary R. Morrissey, librarian at Sheppard and Enoch Pratt Hospital near Baltimore. This hospital is one of the three or four most important private hospitals for mental cases in this country. It has a fine history and traditions.

Management of the work carried on by a committee of McGill University alumnae in Montreal hospitals is left entirely to the Library Committee.

The Convenor is appointed each year by the Society, and she is given the power to make up her own committee, all of whom are graduates of McGill University, and each one held responsible for a stated part of the work.

The work was organized in 1917, when the wounded soldiers were being brought back to Montreal. The Committee has established, financed and conducted nine libraries in military hospitals of various sizes. The money to carry on the work has been raised in various ways, chiefly by lectures by persons of renown, or diminutive dramas given by members of the Society. In the past eleven years nearly \$1,000 has been raised for hospital libraries by the Society.

The Committee at present has charge of two hospital libraries.

At the Military Hospital at Ste. Anne de Bellevue, about twenty miles from Montreal, where all the soldier patients of this district (415) are looked after, it owns, finances and manages a library of 5,236 books. The circulation last year was only 6,615 on account of the increase in the number of mental cases. The librarian who is on daily duty from nine to five is paid by the Government at Ottawa. The other library is in the Royal Victoria Hospital for civilians. To this hospital was given the library and furniture when one of the large military hospitals was closed in 1920. It was given on the condition that a bright and large room in the central part of the hospital be used for the library, which had to be kept up to the standard at which it was given. The hospital grants \$300 annually for books and \$200 for salary of the summer worker. The 650 beds of this hospital are visited twice a week by organized voluntary workers who are recognized as part of the hospital staff. There are 3,219 books on these shelves, with a circulation last year of 23,114 books, which is an average of 74 per day.

The buying of the books for both these hospital libraries is left to the Convenor. In the selecting of books the librarian at the Ste. Anne de Bellevue, and the library committee and workers at the Royal Victoria Hospital library, are consulted.

For the past nine years Miss Baylis has been elected Convenor of the Committee, previously being honorary secretary-treasurer. The supervising of the work which is the duty of the Convenor calls for four to five hours' work daily. All the work in connection with these hospital libraries, except that of librarian at the Ste. Anne's Hospital has been and is voluntary.

Mary R. Morrissey, librarian at Sheppard and Enoch Pratt Hospital near Baltimore, said that this hospital is one of the three or four most important private hospitals for mental cases in this country. It has a fine history and traditions, and it is pleasant to know of the unlimited co-operation the staff gives the library service. There is no lack of accord, no failure to back the librarian up in her attempts to assist in bringing back to reality thru the use of selected reading, so many of these disturbed personalities. And the librarian with her quiet kindliness and wise sympathy is able to supplement the more direct and professional methods of physicians and nurses. We expect to hear more from this library. Here there is opportunity for close observation, records of the reading done with tabulated results.

Personality is always a big factor, and where is it more potent than in a children's hospital? Those who heard these papers will long remember the quiet understanding of one librarian and the vivid winsomeness of the other as she told of her work with the crippled children at Gillette State Hospital of Minnesota. Combine youth, conviction, knowledge of one's tools, realization of one's opportunity, and high spirits, and what cannot be accomplished?

In discussion, books, it might be said, were discussed and deplored, also lists. It was rather pleasing to find that altho there was shown to be a need of guides for the small and the inadequately-provided-for hospital, yet lists as a panacea for all ills and lacks do seem to be losing caste. They cannot be made "fool-proof." Every patient is a law unto himself. Study the patient and know your books. Lists are apt to be out-of-date before they are published.

How shall state and regional interest be aroused and sustained? How can we reach the small, outlying, struggling hospitals and their libraries? This problem was shunted over to the committee's track of responsibility.

The branch libraries came in for notice. There

was a cry from the hospital librarians present against being absorbed by the branch organization simply because their activity is an extensive one, going on outside of the library building; a plea that heads of public libraries might realize that the problem of the hospital library is just as distinct from that of the other divisions of the public library as is that of children's work or reference work, or any other. Is it not more than a coincidence that the finest, most notable library work in hospitals is perhaps being done at present not under the supervision of the public library but by individual hospitals with a librarian in charge? However, it may be funds and not conversion that public libraries need. To sum things up, one might say that this group seemed to know what it wanted and also seemed not afraid to go after that same thing, two very heartening signs of ultimate success.

PERRIE JONES, *Chairman.*

## LEAGUE OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONS

LIBRARIES and Rural Welfare formed the subject of a talk by Mrs. Charles Sewell, director of Home and Community Work for the American Farm Bureau Federation, at the first session of the League of Library Commissions, on May 28. Speaking from the standpoint of her organization, Mrs. Sewell said that its purpose was to raise the standard of living on the farm, so that farmers might have "life more abundantly."

"The civilization of no nation can ever hope to rise higher than the standard of its home." Today, the rural home of the better type is peculiarly the embodiment of ideal American family life. Perhaps there is no other single force that can render as great a contribution to this high standard as that which is possible by means of the county library. The economic condition of agriculture is readily reflected in standards of home and community life, and to the present-day student of rural economics, there is a significant fact in the figures showing that in California where co-operative marketing has reached a high state of efficiency forty-six out of fifty-eight counties maintain county libraries. When one reflects that the average shows eighty-three per cent of rural communities without library service, the natural deduction is that agricultural prosperity, culture and education go hand in hand.

She said the Farm Bureau can help thru its legislative committee in getting appropriations for state work, and can offer in its local meetings an opportunity to present the library program.

Rural libraries ought to take a larger part in directing the reading of children and



older people, thru reading hours at Mothers' Vacation Camps and book reviews in rural papers. She suggested that librarians encourage an interest in rural dramatics thru material for plays and entertainments, that libraries provide a rest room and center for community meetings, and that the county or township library be made into a folk-school. The solution of agricultural problems needs men and women of mature minds and a combination of all arts and sciences.

The discussion following centered around the obstacles in the way of establishing county libraries and the futility of starting such libraries on such pitifully small appropriations. The need of wider knowledge of rural problems and better understanding of county government and finance was emphasized. In summing up the discussion, Mr. Lester called attention to a reading list on agricultural economics which is to appear in the *Wisconsin Library Bulletin*, suggesting that librarians should read with a purpose.

At the second session on Wednesday evening, Dr. C. J. Galpin, of the U. S. Division of Farm Population and Rural Life, spoke on "The Inevitable Revision of Rural Life."

He expressed his desire to raise the temperature of hope in rural life. The farmer has become part and parcel of modern life, and his wants are increasing. Farm population has decreased one-tenth in the last eight years. With the scientific study of agriculture and the enlargement of his immediate world, the period of pastoral simplicity has disappeared. Librarians as humanists should carry the scientific attitude of mind over to human problems. The revision of rural life is re-enforcing the natural advantages which a child has in being born in the country thru the community house, united churches, rural hospital and county library. Mr. Galpin called attention to "Farmers Bulletin" No. 1559, *Rural Libraries*, just issued.

Miss Hoyland L. Wilson, librarian of Coahoma County, Clarksdale, Miss., gave a most interesting talk on the work in her county. A book-wagon, a seven-year-old Ford, was procured with the slogan "The library will cover Coahoma County." There are twenty-nine stations for whites and three for colored people in schools, garages, homes, wherever a sufficient number of people can be reached. Teachers from the Rosenwald Agricultural schools come in for books. A special law in Mississippi allows \$7,500 appropriation from the County. Coahoma County receives \$5,000.

Clarence B. Lester gave a report of the British Columbia Survey. He said its purpose was to find out the facts and determine what might be done in an unique situation.

The province of British Columbia was one of the first to undertake traveling library work in 1898. The Library Commission was organized in 1919, with a new personnel in 1926. Under the leadership of Dr. Norman Black a survey was determined upon a year ago. The organization consisted of a research board, comprising three librarians from the island, three from the mainland and three members of the Commission, plus the chairman of the library committee of the Teachers Federation. This Central Research Board undertook the task of gathering facts. The chairman of the commission, librarian of the University and librarian of the Vancouver Public Library constituted the executive committee. In addition there was a council of forty to fifty members of the legislature, representing influential groups in the province. A mailing-list was developed including every post-office in the province (2,000). On the one hand there were those with library experience and on the other extension of information into every part of the population. The questionnaire method was used, and the field looked into not only as to existing library service, including every kind of library, but as to what might be done to give service. Some kind of information was brought back from every part of the province and from 1,000 schools. The information was turned over to the Commission and organized from the point of view of fact statement. A mimeographed statement was prepared and sent every member of the Committee and Council.

Bulletins were issued in the form of popular text statements containing a summary of facts. Finally, the information was passed over to the Council, whose task it was to come to conclusions about facts collected.

As to results, the work is not yet done. The aim of the survey was to try to work out a plan. The primary necessity is a strong central organization. The situation will require continuation of the traveling library work. The sea-coast must be reached by boat service. The traveling library service may involve development of an interior center, such as Kamloops.

The governmental organization, which is by cities, school districts and district municipalities (corresponding to our towns) does not permit of anything like a county organization.

Mr. Lester continues as president for another year. Other officers are: Vice-presidents, Mrs. Lillian Griggs, North Carolina Library Commission, and Leora J. Lewis, South Dakota Library Commission; secretary-treasurer, Jane Morey, Missouri Library Commission; Executive Board member, Frank L. Tolman, New York State Library.

CLARA F. BALDWIN, *Secretary-Treasurer*.

## LENDING SECTION

THE Lending Section met on the first afternoon of the Conference with Bess Summersby, chief of the Circulation Department, St. Louis Public Library, as chairman.

Meredith Nicholson, Indiana's well-known novelist and essayist, was the principal speaker of the afternoon. Mr. Nicholson, who is at present taking an active part in municipal affairs in Indianapolis as a member of the Common Council of that city, is keenly interested in problems of politics and government in America. He therefore chose as his subject "The Librarian and Good Citizenship."

Harold F. Brigham, Carnegie Library, Nashville, Tenn., spoke on the problem of keeping the book collection up-to-date. Five important factors which enter into the problem are: (1) book selection, (2) book distribution, (3) book re-habilitation, in addition to two factors concerned with organization, (4) the machinery of circulation, and, (5) the personal equation. Particular emphasis was placed upon the importance of keeping the book collection clean, fresh-looking and attractive. "Rehabilitation is probably the most important factor in making and keeping books alive . . . [It] comprises weeding out dead wood, repairing and re-binding worn material and restoring to life books which have lost their place in the sun in the deadly competition with best sellers and works hot off the press. . . . The aim is to get worth-while books used . . . by getting rid of the obsolete, the dirty and the worn [and] by dressing the survivors in new, attractive-colored bindings that attract the eye like the bright covers of new books." A number of books, rebound in two-tone buckram were displayed. These have been used very successfully in Nashville. The use of fabrikoid bindings was also recommended for libraries which can afford the additional cost. The lettering of book titles in color in contrast to that of the binding is a recent innovation in Nashville which gives promise of being both practical and popular.

The use of the Dickman charging machine in the Washington (D. C.) Public Library was discussed by George F. Bowerman who reported that, thus far, results were on the positive side. The machine is used only in the main adult department at present but it is soon to be installed in the adult department of a branch library. Its use in work with children is not contemplated. The advantages of the system were summed up by Grace Finney of the Circulation Department, in a memorandum read by Dr. Bowerman, as follows: (1) correct borrower's card number, (2) legibility of numbers and dates, (3) speed at return desk in seeing at a

glance on which card a book was issued, (4) speed at slipping desk by having legible dates on charging cards, (5) more speed in issuing books.

Esther Johnston told of New York's experience since introducing the Dickman system in the Central Circulation Branch and in one of the smallest branch libraries. Some gain in speed at the loan desk has resulted in New York, a gain hoped for but not wholly expected. One handicap is the use by borrowers of cards from other branches which necessitates much hand charging in the old way. This accounts for the fact that in New York the number of assistants needed for the routine processes of charging and discharging has not yet been reduced.

Officers elected are: chairman, Mae C. Anders, vice-librarian, Des Moines Public Library; vice-chairman, Esther Johnston, librarian in charge, Central Circulation Branch, New York Public Library; secretary, Mildred W. Sandoe, librarian, Greene County District Library, Xenia, Ohio.

JANET L. HANNAFORD, *Secretary*.

LIBRARY BUILDINGS  
ROUND TABLE

A two and a half hour session on library buildings was held at the French Lick Springs Convention Annex on June 1st, with Joseph L. Wheeler presiding.

Chalmers Hadley speaking on "Some Psychological Values in Modern Library Buildings" emphasized the value of planning and equipping departments so that the library building will suggest hospitality and bookishness. He believed it wise to remove from the public eye such workers as untrained clerks, typists, statisticians, bookkeepers, telephone operators, verifiers, etc., so that library buildings will suggest books rather than people and serenity rather than bustle. The circulation department with its book lending room is a vital place where the library's attitude and personality can be best interpreted, and here in particular books and friendly atmosphere should prevail. In the departmentalizing of libraries Mr. Hadley said he believed the lending room should not be abolished but it should be retained so that the general reader can have books brought to him instead of shunting him to the books as placed by the classifiers on widely separated shelves. The children's department is at present about the only one whose activities are suggested by its equipment and appearance, and all other departments should also express themselves and so relieve the library's interior from a too preva-

lent monotony. One of the difficult problems in library planning is to eliminate halls and walls so as to give compactness without creating confusion, and to place departments on several floors of a library building without decentralizing the departments to a point where they become entirely individual working units with increased correlation and co-operation with all other departments.

In the discussion following, Joseph Marron of Jacksonville suggested the value of having busy and detailed work going on before the public to impress public and city officials with the pressure and diversity of the work.

The paper by Carl Vitz of Toledo on administrative problems and cost of subject departments in large city buildings will be given in whole or in abstract in a later number.

Thomas P. Ayer of the Reading (Pa.) Library, who is also the consultant in the planning of the new Richmond (Va.) Library, reported on the study which he had been making on building operating costs in large city libraries.

There appeared to be no uniform schedule of items in accounting for building costs in various libraries and it is hoped to prepare such for subsequent adoption by libraries, altho local fiscal and accounting peculiarities make this impossible for most of the present buildings. In any event the schedules will have to be modified for at least three groups: large, medium-size and the small libraries.

Naturally, the cost of building upkeep runs a great deal higher in proportion in the small libraries. In some of the larger, the building maintenance amounts to about eight per cent of the total budget. In actual dollars, it was found that in two recent large buildings the mere cost of building operation, including janitors, mechanics and elevator operators was very high, in one case over \$80,000 and in another over \$100,000 per year. This high cost was due in only a small degree to the difference in wage scales, the general cause of these high figures being the architectural design in which excessive space requiring cleaning, an excessive number of elevators, etc., were partly responsible.

In the discussion following, it developed that several buildings have been designed without much regard to the travel of the public from one department to another and without attempting to cut down the useless space occupied by corridors, stairways, etc.

Miss Louise Prouty, vice-librarian at Cleveland, read an interesting paper on "Proceedings and Costs of Exhibits Behind Glass in Library LIBRARY JOURNAL.

JOSEPH L. WHEELER, *Chairman.*

## NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE LIBRARIES

FRENCH LICK was the scene of the thirty-first annual convention of the National Association of State Libraries, which met at the French Lick Springs Hotel on May 23, with President Henry E. Dunnack of Maine in the chair.

Louis J. Bailey, director of the Indiana State Library, extended to the association a welcome from the state of Indiana, and outlined in interesting fashion the history of the State Library from its beginnings in 1816 to the inauguration of statewide circulation of books in 1903 under William E. Henry and the consolidation act of 1925. President Dunnack in his presidential address suggested several objectives for the Association to work towards in the following years: Establishment of a state author collection, of a uniform organization for all state libraries, of a legislative reference department in every state library, a department of state archives as a part of state library work, and a uniform system of state document exchange. Nineteen states are not represented in the Association, constituting a field where organized effort is needed. Where the state librarian is liable to be supplanted with each election, there is little incentive to attend the meetings of the Association. State libraries should be taken out of partisan politics.

Mrs. Mary E. Frankhauser, state librarian of Michigan, appeared as a representative of a state library that is celebrating the one-hundredth anniversary of its establishment to discuss "The Relation and Value of State and Local Libraries." Since it is generally conceded that there should be a central unit, whether called a state library, department of libraries, library commission, or by some other title, it cannot but be deplored that scattered library activities with their necessary economic waste are continued in so many states. As a refutation of the argument for a state library controlled by a state board she referred to the recent experience of Ohio with such a plan. Very soon librarians of small libraries will look to the central state agency for encouragement and guidance in the program of transforming their libraries from mere information service bureaus to active educational agencies. The adult education movement, school libraries, the betterment of school libraries, and the procurement of county libraries are all subjects challenging attention.

In the absence of F. B. Crossley, librarian of the Elbert H. Gary Law Library of Chicago, his paper describing the foreign collection of that library was read by Mr. Godard of Connecticut. The nucleus of the collection was the Moritz Voight library in 1903. The library has

since installed and is building into fair working collections the following, mostly foreign: (1) Ancient, Oriental, Primitive and Mediaeval law, including the Hindu, Mohammedan, Hebrew, Babylonian, Egyptian, Greek, Chinese, Japanese and mediaeval European materials. (2) International law, including material relating to American, British and Continental diplomacy. (3) Roman and Civil law. (4) Ecclesiastical law. (5) Jurisprudence and Philosophy of law, including all the important American, English, German, French, Italian and Latin texts on the subject. (6) Criminal law and Criminology. (7) Latin-American law, including the codes, ordinances, decisions of the Supreme Court, most important treatises, and leading law journals, so far as obtainable, for Mexico and the Central American and South American states. (8) Legal Bibliography. The bibliographical sources of information include the foundation list in 1903 furnished by M. Martinus Nijhof, publisher, The Hague; Mulbrecht's *Wegweiser* and his annual *Bibliographie der Staats- und Rechtswissenschaften*; and, for Latin-American material, valuable assistance has been rendered by the Phemister Company of New York City.

Round table discussion brought forth the statement from Mr. Conant of Vermont that the *Bulletin* of the Vermont Free Library Department will print a list of state publications and from Dr. McIlwaine that the state library had determined to publish once a year a full list of all documents issued by Virginia during that period. Miss Thornton of Georgia stated that she had found the bulletin issued by Mr. Rossbrook of Rochester, N. Y., very helpful in locating state publications.

Lack of legislative authority will prevent the establishment of a clearing house for the actual storing of duplicate state documents, but the Association can devise a plan not unlike the *Union List of Serials*, stated Herbert O. Brigham of Rhode Island in his paper on "Co-operative Want List and Duplicate List of State Documents." Documents and their location can be checked upon this list, and eventually surplus documents will find their way into the hands of the libraries which would have the greatest use for them. This is too great a task to be accomplished in a single year. It might be possible to select a state whose documents are lacking in the files of leading libraries, or a state whose document distribution for the past two decades has been unsatisfactory. If adequate financial support could be received from outside sources, state libraries might, with the consent of the proper authorities, deposit their surplus documents in centralized locations, ap-

praising all documents at their value as waste paper, permitting resale of those documents at a price to cover cost of transportation and overhead expense.

Amendments to the constitution were adopted raising the dues for all classes of members and reducing the number of copies of *Proceedings* to be published. The editing of the *Proceedings* for 1927 proved to be a heavy task, since the A. L. A. allows but fifteen pages to be printed in the *Bulletin* free of charge.

At the joint meeting of the National Association of State Libraries with the American Association of Law Libraries feeling was found to be strongly against the consolidation of the two associations, and the question was referred to the executive committee of each organization for further consideration.

The present officers were continued in office for another year—Henry E. Dunnack, State Library of Maine, Augusta, president; secretary, Irma A. Watts, Pennsylvania Legislative Reference Bureau, Harrisburg.

## ORDER AND BOOK SELECTION

WITH an attendance of over seven hundred the Order and Book Selection Round Table opened on Friday afternoon, June 1, with Charles W. Smith of the University of Washington Library presiding. The first paper on the general subject of "Viewpoints in Book Selection" was given by Louis J. Bailey, Indiana State Library, who expressed the subject "The Interpretation of Community Book Needs" as a need for a better understanding of the human element in the community, more and better books for the average person whom the library does not reach at present, and a development of the specialized work of the various departments and particular fields of library service. Frederic Melcher, editor of the *Publishers' Weekly*, explained that "Book Selection: The Publisher's Problem" was not really one so much of selection as of planning, since publishers generally decide what shall be written and who shall write it, accepting only the smallest fraction of the unsolicited manuscripts sent in. Poetry and fiction being creative literature, particularly the first, are exceptions to "planned publishing," and permit the authors to think of their work first and their readers second. Elva Bascom, Carnegie Library School, Pittsburgh, suggested in her paper "Education for Book Selection" that since young people of today have so little opportunity to know books as do the older librarians who frequently do not have the professional training and the educational preparation for book selection, yet are real interpreters of books, and since books of today are so much more difficult



to evaluate than in the past, the preliminary education for the future student of book selection methods should include good courses in ethics and applied psychology, along with the usual emphasis on history, literature and the social sciences.

Mr. Roden replied to the question, "Who Ought to Select Books for a Library?" that the purchase of books for a library was too big a task for any one person, and that the library strove year by year to reduce the number of mistakes of the past, for the librarian cannot dispose of his mistakes as does the bookseller with clearance sales, or the physician "who simply buries his," but must see his on the library shelves, a daily reminder of money ill spent.

J. Christian Bay, librarian, John Crerar Library, Chicago, spoke on "Co-ordination in the Purchase of Books," explaining the saving in the expenditures for books thru the specialization of subjects and lack of unnecessary duplication in each of the important libraries of Chicago: the Public Library, the John Crerar, the Newberry, and the Ryerson libraries. He suggested that instead of each library in the country striving to add to its book stock as much as possible every year, that libraries within a community, or region, supplement each other's resources for the improvement of library service as a whole.

The problem of subscription books was treated at length by Adah F. Whitcomb of the Chicago Public Library, as reported in the *LIBRARY JOURNAL* for June 15. It was voted to urge the A. L. A. to assume the publication of some bulletin or guide to subscription books similar to that issued by the Pacific Northwest Library Association.

Bess McCrea, head of the Order Department of the Cincinnati Public Library, was elected chairman for next year.

MARGARET E. VINTON, *Secretary*.

## PERIODICALS ROUND TABLE

AFTER the brief transaction of business at the first session, Tuesday, May 29, the chairman, Carolyn F. Ulrich of the New York Public Library, called the meeting to order. One hundred and twenty-five persons attended.

"Agricultural Periodicals for a Public Library," a discussion by Malcolm G. Wyer of the Denver (Colo.) Public Library, will appear in a later number of the *LIBRARY JOURNAL*, and "How Periodicals Aid Research," a paper by Henry O. Severance, librarian of the University of Missouri, appears elsewhere in this issue.

In an entertaining account of "What the Periodical May Mean to the Business Man" Ethel Cleland, librarian of the Business Branch of the

Indianapolis (Ind.) Public Library, described her conversion from boredom with business and industrial periodicals to genuine and keen interest. She said, in part:

"In the first place, I found in the business magazines a very lively discussion of current public, economic and legislative problems, and because this discussion was almost always applied to, or hooked up in some way with the problems and conditions of some particular business, it was all the more easy for me to comprehend. An abstract treatise on the agricultural situation, for example, is not so easy to follow as a discussion of the same question in a magazine on farm machinery where its relation to the manufacture of agricultural implements makes it concrete in application. Again, meeting the same question over and over, in magazine after magazine—the income tax as it affects scores of occupations, foreign trade as reflected in all sorts of industries, changes in the national banking law from the standpoint of one after another type of business—will give the reader, if not a thoro insight into its every phase, at least a realization of its most vital points and its nation-wide importance.

"Aside from a broader view of business conditions and problems in general, I find that I have gleaned from these trade papers a great deal of specific information about many special types and forms of business undertakings and enterprises, for their pages are full of just such information. I think this is what probably endears them most to the business man. Here is much of elusive historical value—the story of a whole trade, the life history of a single firm, a commodity traced from its first raw state to the finished product. Here is biographical material nowhere else to be found. The pioneers of each industry, the big men and many of the rank and file are featured, with many reproductions of photographs, single and in groups.

"Besides these items of historic and human interest, there are even brighter and more golden treasures buried in the trade journals. Here may be found—and often only here—the difficult, the special, the elusive problems of each business analyzed and discussed, and frequently solved. An accounting system for a retail shoe store, advertising for life insurance, an organization chart for a personnel department, tire service management—all sorts of things that appear in the business and trade papers long before they get into a book and many of which are too fine and specific questions ever to make more than the merest paragraph in the published volume which must be broad enough to appeal to a wide group.

"A vital part of all good business and trade

papers is the book review department where one will find reviews of all the books in the field covered by each paper, including books that are not listed in the usual publishers' catalogs and lists, and also, more and more, reviews of books of more general and popular interest, especially biography. And incidentally, whereas formerly business books were rarely given much detailed or intelligent attention in any but the business papers, it is not unusual now to encounter in book review magazines and book review department of general periodicals long and elaborate reviews of business books.

"Another loose thread in regard to business magazines that I want to pick up, is that of annual numbers. A great many such periodicals issue annual numbers, often early in the year, that are encyclopedic in compass. I could name readily a dozen such which supply all kinds of useful information, reliable statistics and special lists. Do you know the economic review of the southern states which is the annual number of *Manufacturers' Record*, or the International Guide for Advertisers which has appeared this year as the annual issue of *Sales Management*, or the *Editor and Publisher* annual number in January that lists everything that could be listed for advertisers, journalists, writers?

"And last, there is a group of periodical publications that no library trying to serve a business public can ignore—the economic, statistical and business information that appears at regular intervals, daily, monthly, weekly, in the form of government bulletins, bank letters, especially those from the Federal Reserve banks, reports and data from trade and other associations and the so-called "business services" issued by private firms as a guide to understanding conditions and markets, forecasting production and trade and making investments. Material of this nature issued by government bureaus, banks and associations is practically all available free of charge, and needs only to be organized to be made serviceable to commercial and financial investigators in the library."

"This Periodical Business," the informative paper read by Carl L. Cannon of the New York Public Library at the second session on June first, predicted that the next great step in library development in the United States will not be in acquisitions, but in developing the mechanics and spirit of inter-library communication. Assuming that the principle of division of responsibility for acquisition should be accepted by university and reference libraries generally, he proposed the following arrangement: (1.) That the United States be divided into a number of periodical "areas" with particular reference to geographical location; that the extent and location of these "areas" be determined by the

universities and libraries themselves, with perhaps some assistance from national learned societies.

(2.) That the field of periodical purchasing be divided along the following lines: (a.) Titles of first importance for most reference and college university libraries. These should be in practically all libraries, without question. (b.) Specialized periodicals in small fields. These should be available in one library in one of the periodical "areas," altho the importance of the periodicals in this group would merge gradually into—(c.) Highly specialized or comparatively unimportant titles. These would be needed in only one library in each of three or four large geographical subdivisions, such as the Atlantic Seaboard, Middle West, Pacific Coast and South.

This would mean that no college or university faculty would be deprived of the fundamental sets. It would mean, however, that in the case of less important periodicals, particularly if they existed in neighboring institutions, the librarian would not execute a faculty order without at least mild argument. It might even happen that one file only of a certain periodical would be sufficient for the entire country.

It would be necessary under this arrangement for the smaller or borrowing library to set aside a fund for subscribing to a few periodicals in groups 2 and 3. The burden would not be great, but it would be necessary in carrying out any co-operative plan, because the purpose is to distribute costs and to insure the location of at least one copy in the country. Reference and university librarians in each geographical group could consider the periodical problems in their own "area" and map out a policy for subscribing to new publications and filling in back files. They would, of course, have access thru the *Union List* to the holdings of other libraries, not only in their own "area" but in other parts of the country. When the *Union List* of documents, which will probably be completed by 1930, is available, the amount of necessary information at the disposal of each librarian will be doubled.

The rising cost of current and bound periodicals, not to speak of the increasing scarcity of some of the latter, forms another barrier in the way of each college and university library forming its own complete collections. Dr. Works, in his survey, found that the average cost of 633 periodicals had increased since 1910 about 31.9 per cent in the universities which he investigated. This is corroborated by G. E. Stechert & Company, who estimate that the increase of all classes of English and German periodicals is about 25 to 100 per cent in the case of the English, and 50 to 100 per cent in the case of the German, and in many cases the increased num-

ber of volumes issued during the year brings the cost to three times that before the War. The librarian of the Chemists' Club of New York finds that scientific journals have increased in cost from 100 to 200 per cent. The average cost of subscriptions is \$7.60. The annual budget for current periodical subscriptions in the New York Public Library, including some documents, is \$30,000, and binding costs add \$12,000 more. If certain important subjects, now omitted, were added, such as law, theology and medicine, this sum would be entirely inadequate. In Sperling's list of German periodicals, technical publications alone cost \$1,099.74 per year. Technical periodicals listed in *Fremdsprachige Zeitschriften*, or all those outside Germany cost \$2,610 per year. The total of both lists is \$3,700 which represents the cost of completeness each year in applied science publications only.

The lack in back files of reference sets has been pointed out on numerous occasions. In J. T. Gerould's paper, read before the Library Institute, it was shown that a recent comparison between the *Union List* and Dahlman-Waitz' bibliography of German historical sources, revealed 70 per cent insufficient representation in libraries of America. Mr. Gerould made a similar comparison between Lanson's *Bibliographical Manual of French Literature* and found that 20 per cent are not represented in the country, that 26 per cent of the remainder are represented by less than four sets.

In the latest periodical catalog of a well known international dealer, the cost of ten fundamental sets was examined. They were for the most part publications of royal or national societies or titles which would be in a first list of desiderata. The cost of the ten was \$5,253. One historical set, not included in the ten—Pertz' *Monumenta Germaniae Historica* complete—was quoted at \$3,200. Some of the less popular sets are still within the reach of almost any library.

The symposium on "Wherein our Present Periodicals for Children Fail," led by Frederic Melcher, editor of the *Publishers' Weekly*, will be summarized in a later number.

Officers for next year are: Henry O. Severance, librarian of the University of Missouri, chairman; and Janet Doe, New York Academy of Medicine, secretary-treasurer.

## RADIO BROADCASTING ROUND TABLE

AT a meeting of the round table with the A. L. A. Committee on Radio Broadcasting held on June first possible work of this Committee was divided into three divisions: (1) Direct aid to libraries broadcasting or expecting to broad-

cast; (2) Encouragement to libraries to broadcast; (3) More publicity for books and libraries in programs by non-librarians. It was the general opinion that the first of these was by far the most important and that any urging of libraries to broadcast might be injurious rather than helpful unless the libraries are fitted for such work.

It was agreed that mention of certain books on the programs of the various network circuits would be of advantage to listeners as well as to libraries. For example, in connection with the stories told of operas it might be well to state where the synopses of the stories could be found. It was the feeling of the Committee that a short article summing up the necessary points in radio broadcasting should be published. Miss Weston reported that the children's stories told by the Fort Wayne (Ind.) Public Library have been very successful; it has been found preferable to tell rather than read the stories.

It was decided to ask A. L. A. headquarters to appoint someone as a representative of headquarters to work with the Radio Broadcasting Committee, also to send to the A. L. A. *Bulletin* suggestions on what librarians could do to encourage greater use of books announced over the radio, such as those broadcast by the National League of Women Voters.

CHARLES H. BROWN, *Chairman*.

A. L. A. Committee on Radio Broadcasting.

## RELIGIOUS BOOKS ROUND TABLE

A SMALL attendance came to the meeting held on Tuesday afternoon, May 29. The chairman, Elima A. Foster of Cleveland, presided. Rose M. Mather, Lincoln Library, Springfield, Ill., acted as secretary.

Rev. John F. Lyons of McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago, presented a paper on "Extension Work of Theological Libraries," which showed careful study of the really large amount of this sort of work which is being carried on, altho without much co-operation between the various institutions.

The paper presented by Hollis W. Hering, of the Missionary Research Library, New York City, was on "Missionary Books in the Public Library." This will appear later in the *LIBRARY JOURNAL*, which has already published in its June first issue the list of outstanding books on religion published since the previous A. L. A. conference.

The following officers were elected for 1928-1929: Chairman, Rev. John F. Lyons, McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago, Ill.; secretary, Jessie Welles, Public Library, Toledo, Ohio.

ELIMA A. FOSTER, *Chairman*.

## SCHOOL LIBRARIES SECTION

THE School Libraries Section held two meetings. The first program on Tuesday afternoon opened with the reading of a condensed report of the survey of high school libraries of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. Mr. E. L. Miller, of the Detroit schools, and his committee, made a study of the secondary schools in the Association's territory, using as a basis the score card prepared by Martha Wilson, librarian of the Lincoln Library, Springfield, Illinois. It was appropriate, therefore, that Miss Wilson gave the report at this meeting interpreting the statistics and conclusions from the wealth of her experience. It is to be hoped the full text of the report will be made available by the North Central Association or by the A. L. A., for it reveals many interesting things.

Vera Dixon, supervisor of School Libraries of Des Moines, gave an interesting description of the school library system in a small sized city in the middle west, showing how the Public Library and the Board of Education work together.

The section then divided into two groups for the consideration of different phases of school work. The junior and senior high school librarians, under the leadership of Mildred Pope, held a long, animated session talking about library instruction. Althea Currin of Cleveland described briefly several methods now in popular use, after which special problems were brought up for discussion by means of questions handed to the Chairman. As Miss Currin pointed out, the great needs of instruction are that it shall be fitted to a practical need, if possible it shall be correlated with class assignments, and always it must be supplemented by personal work on the part of the librarian.

Those interested in the professional training of school librarians met to hear a paper by Carroll Baber, librarian of the Kellogg Library, Kansas State Teachers College, Emporia, on "The Future of the Normal School in the Training of School Librarians." Practically every person present joined in the discussion. This problem of the kind of training needed for school librarianship and the best place to give it is a pressing one and those who were fortunate enough to be at this round table felt that while no definite solution can be found at this time for all communities this discussion was full of suggestions and food for thought. The interest of these two groups was evidenced by the fact that, altho the meetings were conducted under adverse conditions on the hotel verandah, both continued until after five o'clock and there was no difficulty in stimulating discussion.

School librarians and children's librarians met together on Wednesday afternoon to consider some of the problems common to both. Mabel Williams, supervisor of work with schools at the New York Public Library, answered the question "Can the Children's Librarian Help the School Librarian in Book Selection?" in an effective and charming affirmative.

In his paper "Standardization and Organization: Help or Hindrance in Work with Children," Carl Vitz of Toledo pleaded for flexibility in rules and reasonable breaking down of arbitrary barriers between children's and adult departments. He believes the transition between the two should be gradual and that we should have more faith in that faculty in the growing human which has the power to extract from a favorable environment the elements needed for growth.

In discussing Mr. Vitz' paper Florence Briber, of the schools division of the Denver Public Library, described the valuable services of a committee which has done much to bring about closer co-operation between schools and libraries in that city. It is made up of the librarian, the supervisor of branches and the director of work with schools of the Public Library, and the supervisor of school libraries and the director of curriculum from the Board of Education.

The concluding paper of the joint session was read by Eva Schars, librarian of the Cleveland Intermediate School, Detroit, "A Day in a Detroit Platoon School Library." It gave a splendid picture of the elementary school library and her hearers were convinced with Miss Schars that these libraries, altho a comparatively new field, are surely not only creating, thru their pleasant environment and their possession of the best books, a love for reading of the highest type, but are subtly developing ideals of conduct which contribute to the making of a richer and better life.

After hearing a report of the Secretary of the A. L. A. of the visit of members of the A. L. A. to Mexican libraries and of the great need for more American children's books, it was voted that the Secretary's suggestion that a gift of books be made from the American children's librarians be given to the executive boards of both Sections with an expression of approval and interest, and authority to work out as soon as possible a plan for carrying out the suggestion.

In a brief business meeting, Eleanor Witmer was elected the fifth member of the Board of Directors to succeed Marion Lovis, retiring. Under the rotating plan of the Board, Marjorie Van Deusen, librarian, Belmont High School,



Los Angeles, becomes chairman of the Section for next year.

HELEN HARRIS, *Secretary*.

## SMALL LIBRARIES ROUND TABLE

BUILDING successful library service was the general theme of the Small Libraries Round Table meeting, held on the evening of May 30th. Georgie G. McAfee, librarian, of the Lima (Ohio) Public Library, was chairman, with Elsie McKay, librarian of the Oak Park (Ill.) Public Library, as secretary.

The chairman called attention to the fact that today the same quality, if not the same quantity of service is expected of all public libraries whether these be in villages or in cities, and that if the smaller library is to live, it must exercise its building function in ways undreamed of a generation ago.

Señor Joaquín Díaz Mercado, librarian of the Ministry of Education Library, Mexico, was the first speaker. His excellent paper on the "Organization of Small Libraries in Mexico" was read in Spanish, but mimeographed translations in the hands of the audience made it possible for everyone to follow the discussion with ease. Señor Díaz Mercado confined himself to a discussion of those libraries supported by the Federal Government of the Republic, among which are classified the following: the National Library; public libraries of the first rank with more than 8,000 volumes, those of the second with more than 4,000 and less than 8,000 volumes; those of the third, with less than 1,000 volumes; libraries for children; rural libraries, and libraries in institutions. Of these different classes the speaker felt that those exerting the greatest influence today are the rural and the children's libraries.

A serious problem in these libraries is that of building capacity, since the Mexican reading public prefers to do a great deal of its work within the library reading rooms rather than to take material to the sometimes uncertain comfort of their homes.

Personnel standards are high. At the head of each of these libraries must be a director who has an A.B. degree, is acquainted with two living languages, has had five years' experience, professional training, has health, enthusiasm, irrepachable character, leadership and initiative. The average salary is eight pesos or four dollars a day.

It is of interest to note that these libraries are not given individual appropriations, but that the Department of Libraries distributes funds from the Federal budget, these amounts ranging from \$250,000 (in U. S. money) in 1923, down to \$20,000 in 1927.

Free access to shelves is the rule only for encyclopedias and dictionaries. For the use of other material a rather complicated procedure is used. Experience has dictated the policy of providing separate reading rooms for men and women. As there is a law making librarians responsible for all books lost, a deposit of five pesos is required of each borrower for whom, in addition to registration and reader card, an additional record is kept showing date of delivery of each volume, its classification and accession number, and the date of its return.

The library movement in Mexico has been in existence only five years, and already there is promise that the Mexican people will one day realize what the free library means to the progress of a nation, and will endorse its expansion and development.

Ethel F. McCollough, of Evansville, Ind., spoke next on the "Intangibles of Library Building," making the point that in any discussion of the "intangibles," the board of trustees and the library staff were challenged by their community in ways which cannot be measured by statistics, things which cost much in time and effort, but which are only discernible in the final results. Co-operation between library board and librarian hangs upon a hair trigger. In ninety-nine cases out of one hundred it works beautifully in the hundredth case it misses fire. Officiousness and undue assumption of authority either on the part of a trustee or librarian will wreck any library ship of state. Another desirable intangible is the satisfactory personnel of the library board, a group of tolerant, broad-minded men who are willing to back a forward-looking program even in the face of opposition. The staff member with friendliness, an alert, acquisitive mind, and unquenchable enthusiasm is contributing to the intangibles of library building.

Frances S. Hays, extension secretary of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, gave a forcible talk on another phase of library building, "Co-operation Between the Library and the Parent-Teacher Association."

She referred to the plans now being worked out between the National Congress of Parents and Teachers and the A. L. A. thru the election of Julia Wright Merrill, executive assistant of the Library Extension Committee, for the A. L. A., to membership on the National Board of the Congress. A Parent-Teacher book shelf in the public library was suggested as a means of bringing these two groups together thru a study of the excellent material now published on all phases of child life.

The selection of reading matter for the parents' library presents many difficulties. There is a rapidly increasing collection of non-tech-

nical literature adapted for the use of parents of limited education. Some of the best of this type of material has been written during the past year.

Another recommendation made by the speaker was for library visiting. "Parents can visit the library in groups to become acquainted with the material offered for every kind of adult interest, and to know, thru personal contact, the children's room and the children's librarian."

The building of library consciousness thru extension centers was discussed by Mrs. Maude Durlin Sullivan, librarian of El Paso, Texas, in an original paper entitled "Outside the Walls." Mrs. Sullivan gave to her discussion something of the color and of the spirit of adventure which accompanies the approach to any frontier. The first definite extension work was service to mining men in the isolated places in the Southwest, and later to Spanish speaking people struggling in remote and arid districts with problems of agriculture.

In South El Paso where the population is almost entirely Mexican, stations are operated in rented rooms, or at the back of drug stores in tenement districts. Here a station open once a week will have a turnover of four thousand books a month.

## TRAINING CLASS SECTION

WHENCE? Where? and Whither? were the three questions posed to the Training Class Section at its meeting on May 30 and answered in papers read by Faith E. Smith of the Los Angeles Public Library, Cora M. Beatty, Louisville (Ky.) Public Library, and Jessie Welles of Toledo.

The evolution of apprentice classes to training classes was described by Miss Smith, who devoted most of her paper to an account of the aims and methods of the training class maintained at the Chicago Public Library beginning in 1910. It was not even then a pioneer. Los Angeles had had a class since 1892. Brooklyn organized one in 1906. Pittsburgh was training local people for minor positions, offering a course which lasted from October 1 to January 31, with 750 hours of practice work, or four months' service. New York was giving a nine-months' course for training assistants in branches, with practice work in the ratio of two to three. Cincinnati was training catalogers, and required two languages for entrance to the classes. Cleveland was co-operating with Western Reserve University for the training of its assistants. Portland and other cities were giving courses of varying lengths to suit their individual needs. In 1910, which year marked the beginning in Chicago, St. Louis opened a class

which is now a regular accredited library school. Standardization of training classes was being urged then by Mary Wright Plummer, then director of the Pratt Institute Library School, but Chicago had its own peculiar conditions which instruction of potential assistants had to meet.

The lineage of the training class having been traced, the next question for consideration is "Where are We?" said Miss Beatty. During and since the organization of the Board of Education for Librarianship there has been considerable commotion in the training class quarter. The Board, in the interests of more desirable uniformity, has issued and the Council has adopted what are considered minimum standards for the guidance of those engaging in this work, and the Board has taken a decided and increasing interest in this variety of training, with a probable view of arriving at some system of accrediting should this prove desirable.

In libraries where funds are a vital problem, the training class feels the pinch of an inadequate budget. The practical and teaching ability of the department heads are reflected in the training class, since it is they who serve as instructors for many of the courses. The extent and character of the book collection have a marked influence on the opportunities for laboratory work. In short, the characteristic differences and eccentricities, pleasing or otherwise, which distinguish libraries, will doubtless be present in more or less marked degree in their training offspring.

Both apprentice and training classes are training specifically for the junior positions on a library staff, leaving the field of the more responsible and administrative and consequently more lucrative positions to be filled by the library school product. Incidentally, these training classes and apprentice classes are offering a desirable foundation and a preparation for any subsequent higher form of professional training. When training classes are able to submit adequate intellectual and pedagogical facilities with creditable and satisfactory physical equipment, upon a well recognized basis, then some of the so-called elementary work now done in library schools may be curtailed to some extent, or advanced credit given to students offering satisfactory evidence of previous training.

Since these training classes are giving instruction in all branches of elementary library science, their courses vary only in degree and manner and not essentially in content. They are offering the necessary elementary courses in appreciation of literature, book evaluation and selection, children's work, lending, order

and accession work, reference work, classification and cataloging. Here the curriculum suggested in the minimum standards aids in the measurement and evaluation of courses and in the distribution of hours. Classes are only pleasantly standardized and not uniformly machine-made, since a wide latitude is offered each instructor within each course.

Some of these classes are conducting courses six months in length, others seven, eight and nine. Practice of paying students while in training varies widely from nothing at all up to \$100 a month. While the minimum entrance requirement is that for college entrance, several classes require one, two or three years of college work, and a few can place and keep their minimum at a college degree. Here the situation is, of course, largely an economic one influenced by local conditions. The course offered must be sufficiently professional in character to attract students with a degree or part college work, and the resulting financial return must be adequate to justify the academic preparation. Tuition is free to those satisfying residential requirements.

There seems to be no doubt that these agencies of training are definitely meeting many needs of the profession. The Survey of 1926 reports that in forty-seven libraries of more than one hundred thousand volumes almost twenty-three per cent of the staff is the product of a training class of at least six months duration. In fifty-seven libraries of fifty to one hundred thousand volumes this type represents the extent of professional training of over seventeen per cent of the staff. Limitations of salary being what they are, these classes have many applicants for whom library school is financially impossible. No small proportion of those entering library work for the first time, enters by way of these training classes.

The questions *Whence* and *Where* are answerable, but the question *Whither* is a vastly different matter, said Miss Welles.

As used here the question has no note of fatalism. It does not mean "What is going to become of the training class?" it does mean "What is the objective of the training class as it is represented by the persons gathered here to discuss its problems, and how may that objective be attained?"

The training class should look forward to being as inevitable a part of a public library of any considerable size as the catalog department or any other accepted necessity, and to being considered in any general plan of training for library work just as surely as is the library school or the library school's appendage—the summer school. The Training Class objective,

then, may be defined as recognition, acceptance and a place in the sun.

She summarized her suggestions as follows: (1). We believe in the training class idea, but realize that it has been accepted by only a small proportion of American librarians. (2). If it is to persist, the majority of librarians must be converted to it, as they have been to library schools. (3). Training class directors have it in their power to accomplish this by constructive co-operation and by propaganda. (4). If this conversion is accomplished the training class will hold a permanent and legitimate place in local and national plans for training for librarianship. (5). This objective must be attained by a mutual acceptance of basic policies and standards tempered by flexibility, and administered with aggressive adaptability.

## TRUSTEES SECTION

On Tuesday evening, May 29, the Trustees Section met in the Atrium with about fifty in attendance. The meeting was called to order by the chairman, William N. Jannenga, president of the Board of Directors of the Cicero (Ill.) Public Library. Charles Cassel read a paper on "How to Solicit Gifts for Endowments for Libraries." A paper on "Investment of Trust Funds," prepared by Thomas A. Barker, chairman of the Finance Committee of the Public Library of Louisville, Kentucky, was read by Mrs. George Settle.

A paper by John G. White, president of the Board of Directors of the public library of Cleveland, Ohio, was read by the librarian, Linda A. Eastman.

A dinner was held on Thursday evening, May 31, at which twenty trustees were present.

The officers who were elected for 1928-1929 are as follows: Chairman, Charles Cassel, president, Indiana Trustees Association, Connersville, Ind.; secretary, Mrs. E. O. Price, West Lafayette, Ind.

Recommendations, to be sent to the A. L. A. Council, of the Joint Committee of Trustees and Committee on Library Revenues on library trust or endowment funds, were presented by Samuel H. Ranek of Grand Rapids, as follows:

1. Be sure of the legal authority on the part of the Library Board or the City to hold and to administer trust funds. They may need more power to do this effectively. A city should have the same powers in the control of trust funds as a university or college board of trustees. Life interest funds—principal to go to the library at the death of specified individuals or an individual, should be possible.

2. Safety should be the first consideration in

investing funds. "Legal for savings" is a good rule.

3. Investments should be diversified. Not over five or ten per cent of funds should be invested in any one security or any institution or corporation.

4. Invest in new securities exempt from Federal Income Tax—a library board will be paying for something it does not get,—tax exemption.

5. No investments should be made in the securities of an institution or corporation in which any member of the Board is directly active in the management.

6. So far as the terms of the gifts or bequests permit, have one investment account and divide the income semi-annually according to the principal of each fund.

7. So far as possible persuade benefactors of the library not to tie up the funds in such a way as to defeat the real purpose of serving the public, owing to changed conditions.

8. The custodian of all library securities and other funds should be adequately covered with surety bonds, guaranteeing his integrity, the expense of said surety bonds to be a charge against the library.

9. Provide an annual audit of the securities and funds of the Board, either by the City Comptroller or by a C. P. A.

10. Publish in the annual report the list of securities held, the income from each, with descriptions, etc. The Board will often ask itself the question in making an investment, "How will it look in print?"—a wholesome safeguard.

EDWARD H. REDSTONE, *Secretary*.

## WORK WITH THE BLIND

IN THE absence of Mrs. Grace D. Davis, chairman of the Committee on Work with the Blind, the first round table on work with the blind was conducted by Mrs. Emma R. N. Delfino of the Philadelphia Free Library at the West Baden Springs Hotel on May 30.

Edward Peterson of the Chicago Public Library took charge of material shipped from A. L. A. headquarters, Leon Carnovsky and James A. Howard of the St. Louis Public Library arranged the display. Jeanette Freed, typist and Braille assistant, Philadelphia, demonstrated thruout the conference to librarians and other visitors at Booth 47 the use of embossed literature and possibilities for employment of competent blind persons. Mr. E. E. Bramlette, secretary and superintendent of the American Printing House for the Blind at Louisville, was present during three days with an exhibit of books and material from the American Printing House and explained the method of printing

from embossed metal plates. The exhibit also included two embossed volumes transcribed by volunteers of the American Red Cross and four sample sheets made by the Junior League of Philadelphia on the Vaughan portable Braille press, together with one page set up in this movable type. The activity in several cities of members of the American Red Cross, the Junior League and other volunteers was well shown by photographs from several libraries.

The demonstrations attracted much favorable attention.

The establishment at A. L. A. headquarters of an exhibit of literature and appliances needed in work with the blind was thought very desirable, and the suggestion of the acting chairman, that a trained blind young woman be employed by the A. L. A., met with approval.

The Committee has every reason to feel encouraged by the interest shown in Booth 47 and the Round Table and by the fact that twenty-six members of the post-conference party on June 2 visited the American Printing House for the Blind, Louisville, which Mr. Bramlette kept in operation during the evening especially for the visiting librarians.

EMMA R. N. DELFINO, *Acting Chairman*.

Due to lack of space a few reports are held over for our August number.

## FOUND

A COPY of *Englische Studien*, volume 3, with bookplate removed but bearing the call number PRLE5, acc. no. 29899 has been found at the Princeton University Library and will be sent to the owner on request.

## A. L. A. EXPENDITURES

IN listing A. L. A. departmental expenditures in our June 1 number the sum of \$3200 for proof-reader should read stenographer (one) and proofreader (one).

Florence Wilson, instructor at the Paris library school and from 1919 to 1927 librarian of the League of Nations Library at Geneva, is author of *The Origins of the League Covenant*, a treatise the aim of which is "to describe the drafting of the Covenant of the League of Nations and by tracing the attitude of the representatives of each country to its terms to give an interpretation of the Covenant by the men who drafted it." The book is issued under the auspices of the Association for International Understanding by the Hogarth Press, 52 Tavistock Square, London W. C. (255p. 10s. 6d.)



## A STEP FORWARD IN BOOKSTACK CONSTRUCTION

Librarians who examined and carefully considered the new features of the Hine Bookstack, exhibited at the recent A. L. A. Conference, were unanimous in their opinion that we had fully met their ideas of how a bookstack should house books.

Frequent remarks heard were:

"The best and quickest shelf-adjustment I ever saw."

"The best and cheapest method of accommodating oversize books (on any shelf) I ever saw."

"The best and most practical book-support I ever saw."

Thanks to the many librarians whose opinions give us additional encouragement.

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## THE ORIGINS OF THE LEAGUE COVENANT DOCUMENTARY HISTORY OF ITS DRAFTING

BY FLORENCE WILSON

*With an introduction by Professor  
P. J. Noel Baker*

10/6

Miss Wilson was the only woman member of the American Peace Commission, at Paris after the war. From 1919 to 1927 she was Librarian of the League's Secretariat at Geneva.

Professor Baker writes in his Introduction: "Both scholars and plain citizens are furnished in Miss Florence Wilson's book with the various documents from which the Covenant sprang. They will find, too, an authoritative account of the views which were put forward in the Peace Conference Commission by which it was drawn up, and of the various changes which its clauses underwent."

**THE HOGARTH PRESS**

52 Tavistock Sq., London, W.C.1,  
England

## THE LIBRARY JOURNAL

JULY, 1923

IF any reader permitted himself to overlook Miss Donnelly's comprehensive historical critique of the developments of library education in the June 15th number of the LIBRARY JOURNAL, let him hark back to that number and make that paper part of his working equipment. The happy phrase "Library Education More Abundant" makes prophesy of what is to be, and her review of what is and what has been gives many suggestions to librarians in general. The library schools, as she points out, have been pioneers not only in their special field but in the general field of education and one factor of importance may well be emphasized. Unlike the law schools, which have overcrowded the legal calling until it has almost ceased to be a profession, library schools have undertaken to make careful examination of personality one of their chief features, that only those sympathetic for and capable of right relations with their work and their public may have the "imprimatur" of the library degree.

MISS DONNELLY frankly voices one danger which confronts a body like the Board of Education, which can do much "to make or unmake," encourage or discourage library schools and stimulate or dissipate the organization of additional schools, especially in view of the fact that there is no appeal from its decisions. There must and should be variation among library schools as among libraries and librarians, and indeed this is an element of progress. Schools which are outside the usual standards and methods are often doing worthy work which should not go unappreciated. The Riverside Library School in California, for example, though never officially recognized and having shortcomings as well as good features of its own, has done much good work and has contributed useful members to the profession. It will not be a misfortune if the 1923 conference, in most respects a love feast, may initiate an active critical

but not carping spirit which will watch out carefully for the best interests of the Association and the whole profession.

ONE of the sources of waste in library work is the loading down of shelves with material which is anything but desirable for the local or special work of the library, particularly in the case of college or other special libraries where the limitations should be clearly defined by the practical use of books. This, of course, does not apply to the great university libraries where almost all the books that can be brought together may at one time or another be desirable for purposes of university work and research. Mr. McMillen points out that in many libraries there has not been the courage to resist the receipt as gifts from well meaning would-be donors of duplicate sets which actually cumber shelves much needed for other purposes. This again points the moral that gifts for libraries should be accepted only where the books are really acceptable, and of course gifts which are complicated by conditions of keeping a collection segregated are the most objectionable of all. It is better to refuse gifts than afterward to find it necessary to discard them. Discarding is indeed the most difficult of all processes in a library, yet in the same spirit of preventing waste that process must be rigorously applied from time to time, where experience shows that many books are not all useful to the immediate constituency and have no historical importance in that library.

IT will be a pleasant acknowledgment and aftermath of M. Roland-Marcel's visit to America if Dr. Williamson's plan for obtaining sufficient American subscriptions to the existing volumes of the catalog of the Bibliothèque Nationale may be so fully and promptly carried out that a fresh start in the preparation and publication of the remaining volumes may ensure the completion of this magnum opus within a few years instead of within the half century. While this would indeed be a pledge of international good will and appreciation, it would also be a piece of "enlightened selfishness," for this catalog is, in fact, a most valuable "who's who" among books. It is now for the librarians of public libraries to follow the example of the university librarians and a few of the greater municipal institutions in backing the efforts of Dr. Williamson's committee to increase subscriptions up to the full number of available existing copies as well as to subscribe for the new volumes as they appear in accordance with the plan described in Dr. Williamson's paper.

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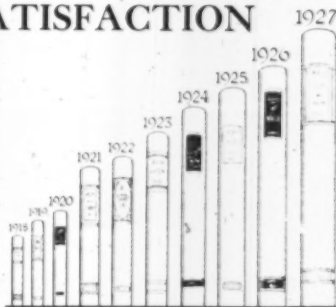
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## AMONG LIBRARIANS

Thomas P. Ayer who resigned the librarianship of the Richmond (Va.) Public Library some months ago to become librarian of the Reading (Pa.) Public Library returns to his Richmond post on July 15. Mr. Ayer has continued his relations with the Richmond library, acting as consultant in regard to the proposed new library building, plans for which were approved on June 15.

Charles M. Baker, 1918 New York State, assistant librarian of the University of North Carolina, has been appointed director of libraries of the University of Kansas.

Willis H. Kerr, librarian of Claremont College library, has been appointed director of libraries of Claremont Colleges, continuing as librarian of Pomona College also. This means a general advisory relation to the libraries of the affiliated colleges, and direct charge of the (central) Library of Claremont Colleges. The Library of Claremont Colleges will be housed for the present mainly in the Pomona College library building, and it will be classified and cataloged separately.

Fellowships at the University of Chicago Graduate Library School have been awarded to the following: Amy Winslow, Indianapolis Public Library, Indianapolis; Susan Grey Akers, University of Wisconsin Library School, Madison; Margaret Crompton, Vancouver Public Library, Vancouver, B. C.; and Eleanor S. Upton, Yale University Library, New Haven, Conn.

### GRADUATES OF 1928

#### ST. LOUIS LIBRARY SCHOOL

Graduates of the general course have received appointments as follows:

Leon Carnovsky, assistant to the librarian, Washington University Library, St. Louis; Helen H. Darsie, assistant, Technology Division, Public Library, Seattle; Margaret A. Rounds, librarian, Benton, Ill.; Margaret E. Hauge, assistant, children's department, Public Library, Minneapolis; Stella R. Waters, circulation department, Cossitt Library, Memphis, Tenn.; Eley A. Fister, assistant, children's department, Public Library, Wichita, Kansas; Helen F. MacMahon, assistant, Public Library, Kansas City, Mo.; Violet M. Williamson, children's department, Public Library, Tulsa, Okla. In the St. Louis Public Library the following: Marion A. Asher, Elsa M. Carlson and Ethel A. Wiese, catalog department; Sarah T. Booth, central children's room; Evelyn Cherry, carpenter branch; Made-

leine Closs, open shelf department; Dorothy W. Grindon, Divoll Branch; Katherine P. Hafner, Virginia M. Moran, Josephine E. Silsby, and Jeannette Whitehill, stations department.

Graduates in the course for children's librarians are placed thus: Veronica J. Smith, assistant children's librarian, Barr Branch; Katherine L. O'Keefe, assistant children's librarian, Crunden Branch; Mrs. Irma C. Littleton, children's librarian, Baden Branch; Marianne Van Guest, assistant, Barr Branch; Margaret F. Willis, assistant, circulation department.

#### CARNEGIE LIBRARY SCHOOL OF PITTSBURGH

Helen E. Earp, assistant, children's department, Public Library, Toledo, Ohio; Elizabeth R. Frear, reference assistant, University of Pittsburgh Library; Dorothy E. Larned, junior high school librarian, Public School Library, Columbus, Ohio; Mrs. Vivian J. MacDonald, librarian, Aluminum Company of America, New Kensington, Pa.; Elizabeth B. Mendenhall, librarian, Benjamin Franklin Jr. High School, New Castle, Pa.; Janet B. Merrill, children's librarian, Public Library, Providence, R. I.; Edna H. Specht, children's librarian, Parmly Billings Memorial Library, Billings, Mont.; Elizabeth S. Wilson, reference assistant, East Liberty Branch, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh; Doris P. Wood, assistant librarian, Harris County Public Library, Houston, Texas.

#### NEW YORK STATE COLLEGE FOR TEACHERS

Doris Arnold, librarian, Ticonderoga (N. Y.) High School; Kathleene Keefe, fellow at Mount St. Vincent College (New York City) to give library instruction to freshmen; Edith Polgreen, librarian, Warwick (N. Y.) Public Schools.

### OPPORTUNITIES

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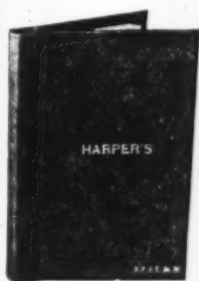
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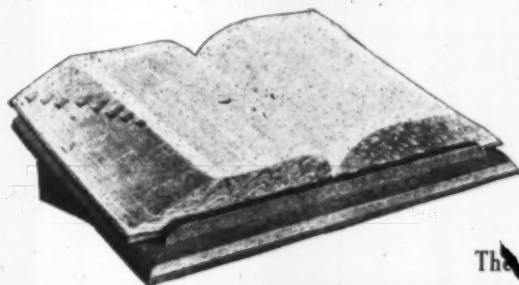
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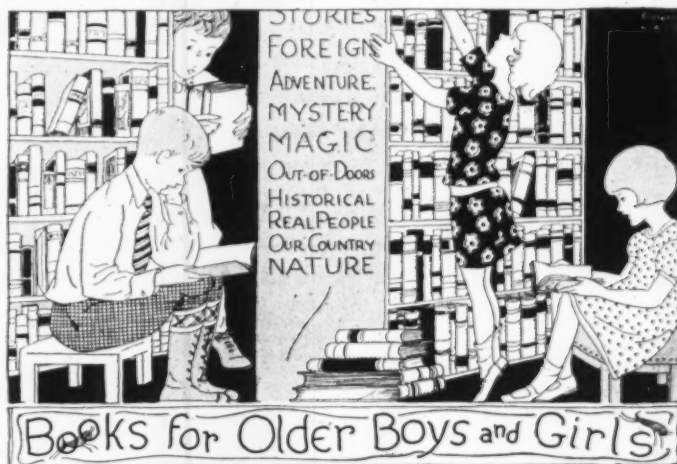
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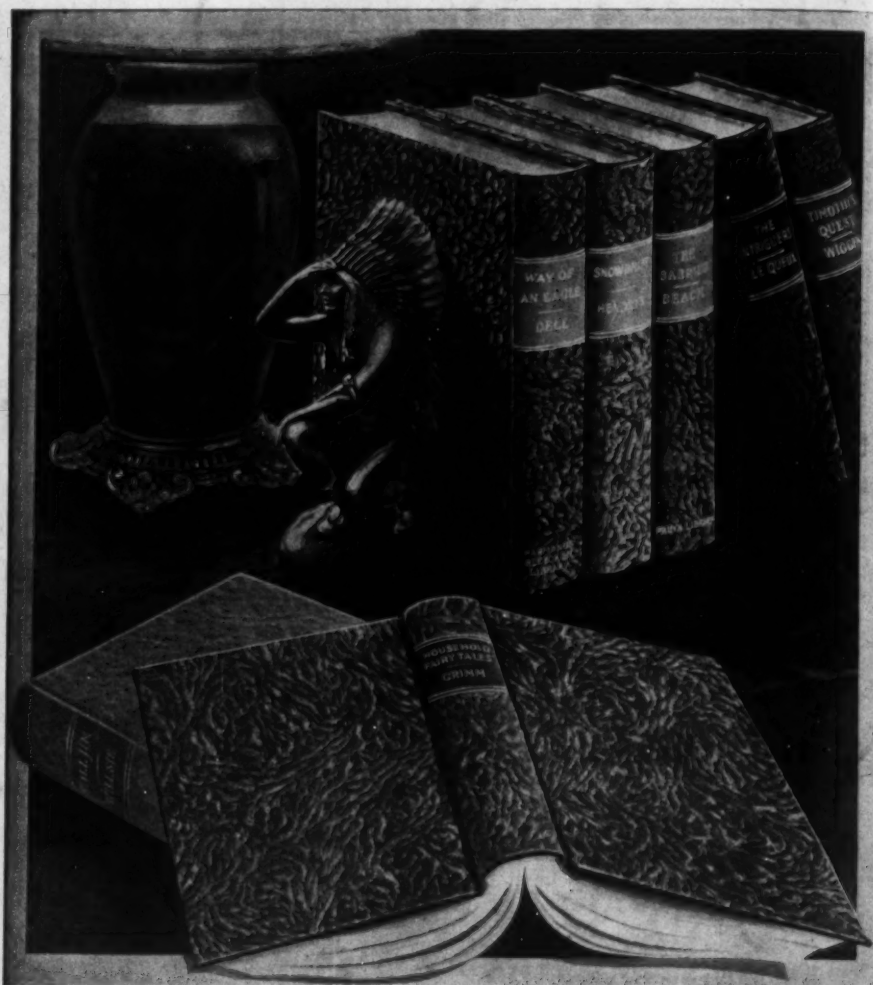
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